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AND

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MARRIAGES.

At Tokyo, on April 24th, Mr. GAVIN A. FORREST, to Miss FRANCIS J. HUNT.
On the 4th May, at Shanghai, by H. Danish M. Consul, and at the Cathedral by the Reverend A. Elwin, CARL CHRISTIAN BOJESSEN, Chief Inspector, Imperial Chinese Telegraphs, to AGNES MARTHA YANG, of Canton.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 10th April arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 10th May (30 days); the French mail of the 9th April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 11th May (32 days); and the Canadian mail of the 20th April arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 11th May (21 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., and party have returned to Shanghai from the North.

The natives of Formosa became Japanese subjects on the 8th May. A renewal of the rebellion is reported.

Sir Claude MacDonald, after visiting Foochow, arrived at Shanghai on the 2nd May and left again for Tientsin on the 7th.

Senor Galhardo, the new Governor of Macao, was a passenger by the M. M. steamer *Natal*, which arrived at Hongkong yesterday.

As will be seen from our Macao correspondent's letter, the port dues at Macao are to be abolished as regards coast and river steamers.

The Haiphong Chamber of Commerce has voted against the application to Indo-China of the provisions of the new treaty between France and Japan.

A telegram from Vancouver received by the Japanese Government states that the amendment of the Canadian Tariff, which is now completed, leaves tea free of duty as before.

The legal representatives of those who lost their lives in the *Onwo* filed their claims at Shanghai on the 30th April, the last day for doing so. There were 124 Chinese claims and two European.

Chev. E. Ghisi, Consul for Italy at Shanghai, has received a telegram announcing that Marquis Salvago is nominated to Peking, and is expected there very shortly. It is not known yet whether he is appointed Minister or *Chargé d'Affaires*.

It is currently reported amongst natives at Shanghai, the *N. C. Daily News* says, that H. E. Sheng has refused to receive the resignation of Dr. Ho Kai and that he has telegraphed to the latter asking him to return to Shanghai to resume his post.

The following ratepayers have been nominated for the Shanghai Municipal Council:—Messrs. F. Anderson, A. R. Burkill, J. S. Fearon, E. A. Hewett, the Rev. J. R. Hykes, R. W. Little, O. Middleton, J. Prentice, M. Rohde, E. Shelton, J. D. Thorburn, J. Welch, and H. P. Wilkinson.

Mr. Yamada, the Japanese Consul at Lyons, has, it is reported, telegraphed to the Japanese Foreign Office that a proposal has been made in the French Chamber of Deputies to impose import duties on silk goods, and a Bill has been brought in to encourage export of French silk by means of bounties. Both proposals have powerful support.

Illustrating the ignorance and conceit of the ordinary up-country native, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, an English gentleman tells us that, while waiting at a station on his way down from Peking a few days ago, a peasant who entered into friendly conversation innocently asked if they had heard of such things as railways in his honourable country!!

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 10th May at which H.E. the Governor announced that it was not his intention to appoint a commission to inquire into the working of the Opium Farm and the possibility of substituting bonded warehouses. Certain by-laws submitted by the Sanitary Board for approval were considered and were referred back to the Board with amendments and deletions.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 27th April states that as a result of the negotiations between the Japanese and German Governments in regard to the question of Consular jurisdiction over litigation in connection with patents, &c. [previous to the new Treaty coming into operation], the German Government has acceded to the view taken by Japan. It has been arranged to conclude a supplementary convention to arrange the matter.

The chief engineer of the German man-of-war *Princess Wilhelm* committed suicide by shooting himself at the German Hospital at Yokohama on the 1st May. He had been an inmate of the hospital for some time, and it is thought his rash act was due to mental depression.

In the race for the Chu-ka-za Cup on the second day of the Shanghai Races Mr. Midwood was thrown by Black and White and was picked up unconscious, bleeding from the mouth and ears. It was feared he was suffering from concussion of the brain, but he recovered consciousness some time afterwards and was found to be not so seriously injured as was at first believed. We hear that a telegram was received from Shanghai on Monday to the effect that Mr. Midwood was out of danger and recovering rapidly.

An important auction of property took place at Foochow on the 30th April. Lot 1 was the business premises known as the *Kung Bu hong*, lately occupied by Messrs. Phipp, Phipps & Co., which was knocked down for \$5,200. The building alone of these premises, the auctioneer stated, cost \$24,000. Lot 2 was the Bungalow on the hill occupied by Mr. H. B. Weeks. This was bought in by the mortgagee for \$2,900, the limit of \$3,000 not having been bid. The results show the present depressed value of property in Foochow.—*Echo*.

A claim was recently made by the Tonkin Government on Insurance companies doing business in that country for arrears of duty due under the Registration law on policies issued by them. Such duties have not hitherto been collected and the claim now preferred amounted to a large sum. The matter was brought before the Haiphong Chamber of Commerce, which recommended that no arrears should be claimed. A compromise has now been arrived at between the Government and some of the companies concerned, according to which the duty is to be paid as from the 1st January of the present year, the claim for preceding years being waived, on condition that the companies undertake not to resist the remainder of the claim at law. Some of the companies, it is reported, have declined the compromise and important law suits are in view.

The Governor of the Straits Settlements in submitting for the Secretary of State's consideration a draft Bill by which a levy of \$1 is to be made on all Chinese immigrants arriving in the Straits said that as this revenue would be extraordinary, and was quite unanticipated when the military contribution was settled, he saw no objection to a part of the draft preamble and certain sections which were designed to prevent sums levied under this Ordinance being assessed at 17½ per cent. for military contribution, but he left the matter for the Secretary of State's decision. Mr. Chamberlain in his reply says:—While not objecting to the levy of a special tax for a special object, to be reduced or repealed when the object has been met, I cannot sanction the arrangement by which it is proposed to place the proceeds of the tax in a Special Fund, not forming part of the general revenue, with a view to preventing the amounts in question being assessed at 17½ per cent. for the military contribution. The adoption of this device would lead to endless discussion, and the amount involved is relatively so small that it is not worth raising any question about it.

THE POSITION OF LI HUNG-CHANG.

As we expected at the time would prove to be the case, the removal of LI HUNG-CHANG from the Viceroyalty of Chihli was the first step in the decline of his influence. The veteran diplomatist had got so firmly seated in the saddle at Tientsin that his services as a buffer between Foreign Powers and Peking had become apparently indispensable. He and he alone was supposed to be able to correctly estimate the duration of the patience of any Foreign Government, and to stretch the endurance of Foreign Ministers to its utmost limit. The worthy Viceroy also was acquainted, or supposed to be acquainted, with the best methods of obtaining loans, to be *facile princeps* in the art of driving a bargain and of cheapening a contract. In addition to all these real or supposed qualifications, he had rendered important services to the state (or had been associated with those who rendered them) in the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion and in sustaining the power of the EMPRESS DOWAGER. Above all, he possessed, or at least had at his back, the largest and most efficient force of foreign-drilled troops in the Empire, and the knowledge of the fact served to restrain his numerous enemies while it encouraged his friends, who waxed fat and arrogant in the shelter of their patron's formidable body guard. More than once, when, owing to the machinations of his opponents, LI HUNG-CHANG was summoned to the capital and calmly declined to accept the insinuating invitation, the EMPEROR forebore to press the point, knowing very well that it would not be complied with unless, as was the case on one occasion, LI carried his bodyguard with him to Peking. The desire to divorce the ex-Viceroy from his military guard might have seemed rather childish and objectless had it not been for the extensive resources at the command of this official, supplemented as they were by the immense private fortune he has amassed during his long tenure of office in the most remunerative of provincial posts. The opportunity to remove him came at length somewhat unexpectedly. The war with Japan witnessed the speedy breakdown of China's military and naval systems, and for the failure of both to meet the enemy successfully LI HUNG-CHANG was regarded as responsible. The defence of the coasts had been practically entrusted to him and he had been authorised to spend large sums of money to render both services efficient. In order the better to set LI at liberty to endeavour to save the Empire from the consequences of his failure, he was sent to Japan to negotiate the terms of peace and was then relieved of his post of Viceroy. No doubt he hoped in due course to get back to Tientsin, but ever since the war he has been practically shelved. True he has been made a member of the Tsungli Yamen, and he was despatched to St. Petersburg on a mission to represent China at the CZAR's coronation. But the latter appointment was, it seems, only made in deference to the extreme pressure brought to bear by the Russian Minister, and though LI HUNG-CHANG endeavoured subsequently to enlarge the scope of his mission, it seems he was not authorised to do so, and the Peking Government have put forward no claim for the revision of the tariff so urgently asked for by LI HUNG-CHANG. Possibly the fact that they had but just negotiated a new treaty with Japan on the same terms as regards tariff as those now in force—and they must

have been aware that any revision would be inoperative until the term of that treaty expired—may have rendered the Chinese Ministers indifferent for the present concerning tariff revision; possibly they had no mind to follow where LI led, and were not inclined to lend him the slightest assistance in his efforts to climb back again into the Imperial favour. However that may be, the chances of the ex-Viceroy recovering his former prestige and influence appear rather slender. He is now advanced in years, and cannot afford to wait for a turn of the tide; were he twenty years younger he could calmly await events, trusting to the turn of Fortune's wheel to again render him a necessary factor in state affairs. But time is not on his side, and the Imperial Government have learned that they can do without the hitherto indispensable LI. His successor at Tientsin, who at first was looked upon as probably a *locum tenens* only, has been confirmed in the post, and the veteran has now to be content with the work afforded him in the Tsungli Yamen. It is, we imagine, a further sign of the waning of his star that the new Ministry of War proposes to disband the remnant of LI HUNG-CHANG's Army of the Huai, or Huai Army Corps. At one time, it is stated, this force was estimated at 80,000, probably on paper only, the actual number being about 30,000, but when during the recent war the Corps lost its reputation for courage and readiness it fell into disrepute and was reduced to some 7,000 men. It is now proposed to abolish it as a separate force, and replace it by effective foreign-drilled and trained brigades. Such a measure would most effectively dissipate the lingering belief in LI HUNG-CHANG's puissance and prick the bubble of a reputation very largely due to a chain of fortuitous circumstances early in his career and to the absence of any really trying conjunction of events until 1895, when Japan came and caught him napping.

EXAMINATION OF ACCUSED PERSONS.

A short time ago Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., gave a lecture to the Odd Volumes Society on the theory of British advocacy. The Chief Justice, who presided on the occasion referred to, in introducing the lecturer and speaking of the subject of the lecture, said that he knew of no subject on which greater ignorance prevailed amongst educated men. That remark must have been made under some misapprehension as to the scope of the lecture, for we venture to say very little ignorance prevails as to the theory of British advocacy, and in Mr. FRANCIS's lecture, interesting as it was, there was nothing that could have struck an ordinarily educated and well informed man as strange or new. What Sir JOHN CARRINGTON had in his mind when he referred to the prevailing ignorance upon it was probably the law of evidence, and in respect of that there is no doubt an abundance of ignorance, as there necessarily must be in respect of any branch of learning which is founded in whole or in part on empiricism and in which common sense and logic cannot be taken as reliable guides. The gist of Mr. FRANCIS's remarks on the theory of advocacy was that it was an advocate's duty to do the best he could for his client and that he was not called upon to decide for himself upon his client's innocence or guilt, that being the function of the jury. The position is perfectly reasonable, and though Mr. FRANCIS himself has saved the neck of more than one mur-

derer by his skilful management of their defence no one would think of blaming him for it. The blame should fall rather on the absurd rules of evidence which render such miscarriages of justice possible and which in some respects seem framed expressly for the purpose of bringing them about. A few direct questions addressed to the prisoner would frequently result in bringing his guilt clearly into view when the evidence of other parties falls short of that point. British law, however, as it stands at present, says that the prisoner must not be questioned and that even if he wishes to make a confession he must be warned that it would be better for him not to do so. This is not the principle followed in the home or the school or the private affairs of life, the general rule followed there being that when a fault has been committed the offender should be encouraged to make a clean breast of it. Nor is it the rule followed in some other countries which may be considered as advanced as Great Britain in matters appertaining to the administration of the criminal law. In France, for instance, the point aimed at is to convict a criminal out of his own mouth, which seems a more sensible proceeding than trying to get him off by inducing him to keep his mouth shut. A blot on the French law is, however, that the preliminary examinations are conducted in secret, the prisoner being thus deprived of the guarantee of fair play which publicity affords. This blot is now in a fair way of being removed, a resolution having been passed in the Senate the other day by an overwhelming majority in favour of the abolition of secrecy in the preliminary proceedings in criminal cases.

In England also a change of the law is pending. A recent telegram to the Australian papers states that the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which entitles prisoners to give evidence on their own behalf, had passed its second reading in the House of Commons, and that Sir EDWARD CLARKE in supporting the measure said it would be the means of removing the last remaining relics of barbarism. The Bill, it will be observed, is only permissive, enabling a prisoner to give evidence in his own behalf if he so desire; but if he elects not to give evidence that fact can hardly fail to tell against him in the minds of the jury. If he does so elect he will of course be subjected to cross-examination. In either case, as it seems to us, the result will be to facilitate the arrival at a correct verdict. In some instances—those extremely rare ones in which an innocent man finds himself in the dock—the opportunity of giving evidence will be in the prisoner's favour, but in the great majority it will tell against him and make the law more of a terror to evil-doers than it now is. Advocates when addressing a jury for the defence frequently expatiate upon the disadvantage at which the prisoner is placed by reason of his mouth being closed, and no doubt this sometimes weighs with juries; it is, in fact, often the trump card of a weak case. If the proposed alteration in the law is effected this plea will be no longer available, as prisoners who desire to give evidence in their own behalf will be enabled to do so. In the recent murder case in Hongkong in which a woman had her throat cut, the body being afterwards packed up in a trunk, it would certainly have been conducive to the ends of justice if the husband, who was accused of the crime, had been allowed to state what he knew of the case, or, in the event of his refusing to do so, that the jury should

have been allowed to draw the reasonable inference from such refusal. But in that case the absurdity of the present law was carried to its utmost extreme, the Chief Justice passing an implied censure upon a police officer for even asking the prisoner his name. That is a thing that is done in all cases and the only alternative would be to brand accused persons in some way and identify them by marks like cattle. It seems more reasonable that they should be identified by their names. The rule laid down by the Chief Justice, if it be good law, is also excessively absurd.

A FEW GRIEVANCES.

With weather such as we have had during the last few days, trying alike to health and temper, it is natural that the voice of the grumbler should be heard in the land. An esteemed correspondent writes suggesting that we should make "a very strong remark"—he does not say whether the remark should begin with a big D—as to the dusty state of the roads, especially the Praya and Ice House Street, caused by the building operations now going on, also because lime is allowed to be carried about in open baskets and because coolies are allowed to drag timber along the road, instead of carrying it, so that building contractors save the cost of an extra coolie. The cloud of dust along the Praya at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, our correspondent says, was "something thick," got into one's mouth and eyes, and was in evidence everywhere where windows were open. The roads, he suggests, should be watered morning, noon, and night, say 8 p.m., and two things ought to be stopped, namely, carrying lime in open baskets and dragging timber along the roads. That street watering should receive proper attention every one will agree, and we commend the subject to the consideration of the department concerned; but at the same time it must be recognised by the public that it is practically impossible to altogether do away with the dust nuisance when gusty weather follows upon a long season of drought.

As to requiring lime to be carried in covered baskets or boxes and forbidding coolies to drag timber, the demands of our correspondent appear somewhat extreme. In busy towns small annoyances must be expected and endured and we cannot have every trifle controlled by rigid regulations. It is on very rare occasions that any substantial annoyance is caused by the carrying of uncovered lime through the streets, while as to requiring that two coolies should be employed to do work that can be performed by one in the removal of timber, merely to save one end of the timber dragging on the ground, reasonable objections might be raised on the point of the increased cost that this would mean in building operations. The cost of building has already been increased enormously within the last year or two, and increased cost of building means increased rents. Every item tells in the sum total and if two coolies had to be employed to do the work of one, contractors' bills would be increased proportionately, for the contractor would not pay the cost of the additional labour out of his own pocket.

While on the subject of minor grievances there is another, to which attention has often been drawn before and which may again be mentioned, though the mention will probably prove as ineffective as on former occasions, since the matter, though simple, appears to be beyond the intelligence or the energy of the police, or

else beneath their notice. We refer to the congestion of the traffic at the foot of Wyndham Street and the absence of any control over it. The congestion is in large part due to the fact that every public chair that is engaged at this point has to be turned round, and in the act of turning it occupies the greater part of the width of the narrow street and persons passing at the time have to keep a sharp look out to avoid being struck by the poles. It would be an easy matter to make the chairs stand pointing up the hill, ready to receive passengers, while there is no advantage gained by keeping them pointing in the opposite direction, except that the coolies think they can better attack the prospective fare by rushing at him with the front end of their vehicles. Whenever a chair is engaged at this point it is for the purpose of going up the hill, not for going along Queen's Road, the rickshaws having completely cut out the chair traffic in that direction, and it would be conducive to everybody's convenience and comfort and would save the coolies themselves trouble if the chairs were kept pointing in the direction in which the journey has to be made instead of in the opposite direction. If one of the superior officers of the police force would stand on the Club steps at the Wyndham Street corner some day from a-quarter-to-one until a-quarter-past he would, we think, be convinced of the desirability of making the change suggested.

THE ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

The draft of the address to be presented to Her Majesty on the occasion of Her Diamond Jubilee will have been perused by the community, we think, with some feeling of disappointment. There is an absence of all warmth of sentiment, and the literary composition barely reaches the standard of mediocrity. We would respectfully recommend the Sub-Committee in charge of the matter to try again and see if they cannot produce something more worthy of the occasion, which is one that readily lends itself to eloquent treatment. The Victorian era will stand out in English history even more prominently and gloriously than the Elizabethan era, and in congratulating Her Majesty on the completion of the sixtieth year of Her reign reference might appropriately be made to the achievements of that era, as regards national expansion, progress in the arts and sciences, and social advancement. Literary inspiration, we are aware, will not always come at command, but we think that even in Hongkong it ought to be possible on such an occasion as this to produce an address that would more adequately than the one now before us express the affection in which Her Majesty is held, that would appeal more closely to our national pride, that would make the blood run a little more quickly in our veins and our nerves give a responsive thrill to the expression of noble sentiment. Of all who have read the present draft we venture to say that not one has been in any degree moved by it, unless it be in the direction of dissatisfaction. Not only is the draft unsatisfactory by reason of its omissions and the inadequate expression it gives to the feelings of the community, but it contains two passages to which actual objection may be taken. The phrase "Your Majesty's subjects resident in Hongkong yield to none in their devotion and loyalty," etc., is not only excessively hackneyed, but it is almost invariably used in controversy, as, for instance, when we are resisting some

demand of the home Government but wish to guard ourselves against any imputation on our loyalty. The phrase with slight variations has been used over and over again in the Straits and Hongkong in connection with the military contribution dispute. Apart from its associations, however, the expression "yield to none" strikes us as being an error in taste; we can very well express our loyalty without the use of comparison. Also, seeing that our friends of other nationalities are to be invited to sign the address, the phrase, "that freedom of commerce which distinguishes your Majesty's Government from all the Governments of the world," might with advantage be omitted, for however favourably impressed residents of other nationalities may be with our liberal commercial policy they may not unreasonably object to appending their signature to any implied disparagement of their own Governments. If it be contended that that is not the construction our foreign friends will put upon the passage in question, and if it be also held that the phrase "yield to none" is not inadmissible, the address as a whole would still be open to the objection that it is trite, cold, unenthusiastic, and lacking in the eloquence befitting the occasion.

RENEWED REBELLION IN FORMOSA.

ATTACK ON TWATUTIA.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
TAIPEH, 8th May.

The natives of Formosa become Japanese subjects to-day.

There have been several disturbances outside and at one o'clock this morning the rebels strongly attacked Twatutia. After heavy firing they retreated at 6 a.m.

The Twatutia natives remain loyal.

THE UNITED STATES TARIFF ON TEA.

Mr. J. S. Van Buren, Agent of the P. M. Co. and O. & O. Co., courteously informs us that he has received by cable the following information:—"The United States Senate have reported favourably on the proposal to put an import duty of ten cents per pound on tea. The new duty will go into effect on July 1st next."

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

FURTHER SPANISH SUCCESSES.

We are indebted to Senor Don José de Navarro, the Spanish Consul, for a copy of the following telegram, received from Government House, Manila:—

Manila, 5th May, 6.35 p.m.

In successive victories our troops, under the command of the General-in-Chief, captured Buenavista, the fort Quintarra, and the villages of Amadeo, Naig, and Indan, in the province of Cavite. All these places were strongly fortified and defended by the rebels, who had 600 men killed and a great number wounded. We took more than 200 prisoners. The rebels asking pardon are every day becoming more numerous. The war operations will be continued and the result will be wired to you.

The *Straits Times* says:—Mr. Bibby is expected from Raub shortly, with the gold that may result from the next "clean-up." From Singapore he probably goes to London just in time to see the diamond jubilee. Mr. Bibby's absence—if he go—will probably be "on leave," after a very long spell of work; but, no doubt, it may be arranged that while in London he shall look into the question of electric and mining plant for Raub.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 10th May. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B. (Officer Commanding the Forces.)

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY (Captain Superintendent of Police.)

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY, (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Acting Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBER.

Hon. W. Chatham was sworn in on taking his seat as Acting Director of Public Works.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid the following papers on the table—Reports on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps; calendar of probates, &c., and return of Supreme Court cases for 1896; and the Secretary of State's despatch respecting defence works at Hongkong.

FINANCIAL MINUTE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the adoption of Financial Minute No. 1.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded. Carried.

THE REVENUE FROM SHIPPING.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, in pursuance of notice I rise to ask the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a detailed statement framed in terms of and in accordance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's despatch, dated 17th March, 1897, showing (1) the estimated total revenue which will be receivable from all shipping, separately under each head, during the year 1898, and (2) the estimated total expenditure which will be chargeable to all shipping, separately under each head, during the same period?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply I beg to state that instructions have been issued for the preparation of the returns desired in accordance with the terms of the Secretary of State's instructions and the returns, when ready, will be laid upon the Council table.

THE OPIUM FARM.

His EXCELLENCY—The hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce asked a question on the 7th December last in regard to the Opium Farm. He desired to know if the Government would appoint a Commission to investigate and report on the opium revenue generally, and upon the advisability or otherwise of substituting for the present Opium Farm bonded warehouses and a fixed duty on all opium not *bona fide* exported in a raw state. I may mention that I have given this matter my careful consideration and I do not intend to appoint a Commission to inquire into the advisability of substituting bonded warehouses and a fixed duty for the system at present in force.

THE SANITARY BY-LAWS.

His EXCELLENCY—Before any motion is brought forward with regard to the Sanitary by-laws which are to be considered by the Council to-day, I wish to make a few remarks with reference to them. Having reason to believe that objections existed in certain quarters to some of the clauses in the by-laws I have taken steps to ascertain what those objections are. I find that the first clause objected to is No. 5, and after having carefully considered the matter I am prepared to allow this clause to stand over. I understand that the Commission appointed by me in July last to consider and report on the insanitary properties in this

colony are giving attention to the subject with which clause 5 deals. I therefore propose to refer this clause to the Commission, so that the members of it may consider it in connection with their report, which I trust they will furnish at no distant date. The Commission was appointed in July last and I think there has been plenty of time to report on the subject. The next clauses regarding which representations have been made to me are Nos. 9, 10, and 11. These clauses deal with domiciliary visits. I have already on a previous occasion informed the Council that this is a delicate matter in which great care and tact must be exercised. I am still of that opinion, and for the information of this Council, and especially the Chinese members of it—Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. Wei A Yuk—I desire to state that it is my intention to request the Sanitary Board to appoint no officers for the purpose of making domiciliary visits until the names of such officers have been submitted to me and their appointment has received my approval. (Applause.) It is evident that for such work as visiting the houses of the Chinese at night officers of experience, having an acquaintance with Chinese customs and manners, and possessing the confidence of the Chinese community, are requisite. (Applause.) Only officers of that description will be appointed, and if during the progress of their work they should act in such a manner as may cause reasonable ground for complaint, I trust the Chinese will not fail to report the matter to the Registrar-General, so that the matter may be thoroughly investigated. (Applause.) With regard to clause 15, sub-section 5, it has been suggested that in certain cases that sub-section would bear hardly on the owners of property unless modified by the addition of the following words "without the permission of the Sanitary Board" or something equivalent after the words "any kind whatsoever." That addition will, I trust, be made by the Sanitary Board. The last clause to which my attention has been drawn is No. 26, and it has been urged that 24 hours' notice should always be given before this clause is put into operation. It must be remembered that clause No. 26 is one of the clauses which is to be enforced only during the prevalence of an epidemic in the colony. At such a time prompt action is of first importance. While therefore not being in favour of the 24 hours' notice as has been suggested, I think the clause might be modified in another respect. As it stands at present any officer of the Board is empowered not only to make a house-to-house visitation, but he may forthwith take steps to have all furniture and goods removed, etc. I am of opinion that this is placing too great power in the hands of a subordinate officer of the Board. (Applause.) I therefore am of opinion that it would be advisable for the Sanitary Board to modify this by-law by continuing to the subordinate officers of the Board the power to make house-to-house visits during the prevalence of an epidemic, but not allowing them to take any steps in the direction of removing furniture or destroying cocklofts, etc., without having made a report to the Medical Officer of Health, who should himself inspect the premises reported upon by the subordinate officers before furniture is removed or cocklofts destroyed. (Applause.) In carrying out by-law No. 26 it may happen that some of the very poor among the Chinese may require assistance from the Government, as was found necessary during the plague epidemic of 1894. Such cases will receive the consideration of the Government and, in addition to finding those who may be turned out of their houses a temporary shelter, the Sanitary Board will be requested to bring all deserving cases to the notice of the Registrar-General, who will be instructed to make arrangements for their comfort. (Applause.) Having now dealt with the suggestions made with regard to these by-laws I have only to add in conclusion that the desire of the Government is to have the strongest possible measures for the protection of the health of the public without unnecessary interference with the liberty of the subject. I am certain that that desire is shared by every member of this Council. In sanitary matters I regard it as all important that everything possible should be done in order to prevent friction in this matter—(applause)—

and I am quite sure you will all admit that the Registrar-General, Mr. Lockhart, has rendered very excellent service in this direction among the Chinese. I consider it most desirable to enlist the sympathies of the public with the sanitary laws of the colony and not to estrange their support by refusing to give consideration to any reasonable representations that may be made. (Applause.) I know my views are those of every member of the Government and I feel sure they will receive the support of the unofficial members of this Council. Now it remains for me to call upon the Colonial Secretary to formally move these by-laws one by one. Before they are finally approved they must be approved by the Sanitary Board, and after they are passed in this Council they will be referred to the Sanitary Board and re-submitted for consideration and approval by the Council later on.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In view of the remarks of your Excellency I think it will be more convenient if the by-laws are considered one by one.

This course was approved of.

By-law 5 was omitted and referred to the Insanitary Properties Commission.

In regard to by-law 9, which empowers the Board's officers to enter any domestic dwelling at any hour between 6 p.m. and 12 p.m., Hon. E. R. BELLIOS said—I think the by-law would be improved if after the words "domestic dwelling" the words "where more than one family resides" were added. That will exempt our buildings—I mean foreign buildings—from inspection.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—If the houses are entirely occupied by Europeans the objection would hold good, but seeing that the houses are more or less occupied by Chinese I do not think it would be good.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The by-law affects all classes equally, regardless of race.

There was no seconder to the amendment and the by-law as it stood was approved.

On by-law 11 being read, Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked—This by-law says that on reasonable notice being given buildings can be entered by Inspectors of Nuisances. Would it not be well to fix now what "reasonable notice" means? Would it not be well to specify the number of hours? Different Inspectors might put different constructions on the words.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—When these by-laws are referred to the Sanitary Board the Board will be requested to state what they regard as reasonable notice.

The by-law was then approved.

By-law 15 was, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, so amended as to make it legal for areas to be covered on permission from the Sanitary Board being obtained.

In respect to by-law 26 the COLONIAL SECRETARY said—You will observe that "if the premises so visited or any part thereof shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition in the opinion of any such officers [of the Board] he may forthwith take steps to have all furniture and goods removed therefrom, &c." I propose that after the word "forthwith" the by-law shall read "make a report to the Medical Officer of Health, who shall at once inspect the premises reported upon and may, if he thinks such premises to be in a dirty or insanitary condition, take such steps," &c.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I may say that the Colonial Treasurer, the Medical Officer of Health, and I had a conversation about this by-law this morning and I have drafted an amendment which amounts to the same thing, although it is not in the exact words, and if the Colonial Secretary has no objection I should like to move my amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have no objection to the wording so long as the meaning is the same.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—If there is anything of an epidemic it will be absolutely impossible for one officer to receive these reports and inspect all the buildings.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The wording of my amendment is as follows—"If the premises so visited or any part thereof shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition in the opinion of any such officer he shall report the same [I omit the word 'forthwith'] to the Medical Officer of

Health or to any such other officer as the Sanitary Board may appoint for that purpose, who shall inspect the premises reported on, &c." Without this amendment an officer who found a house in a dirty or insanitary condition would be able to order the furniture and so on to be taken out. As amended, he will have to make a report either to the Medical Officer of Health or to another officer specially appointed by the Sanitary Board. The Medical Officer of Health would not be able to do the whole of the work in the districts and it might be necessary to appoint some other medical man to assist him in his work. It is the person who receives the report and that person alone who has any power to take steps. The Medical Officer of Health said it would be absolutely impossible for him in case of an epidemic of plague to visit every dirty or insanitary place in the colony. There might be urgent need for him in the east or west end of the town and he could not be expected to do anything else whatever; therefore what he could not do himself should be deputed to some other responsible officer.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I think it would seriously hamper the Government to add the word "medical."

His EXCELLENCY—He would be a man of equal standing; a man well qualified to do the work.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think he should be a medical officer or any member of the Board, otherwise, Sir, it might be that the senior inspector would be appointed and therefore the clause, as it stands now, would be of no benefit whatever. The object is that a responsible man should be the only one who could order the pulling down of cocklofts and the burning of furniture, &c.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Your Excellency has already explained that he would be a man of equal standing. You wish to get over the subordinate officer, and the man appointed would have similar qualifications to those possessed by the Medical Officer of Health.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I submit that the Sanitary Board—certainly as far as I know—commands the respect of the community. I do not know whether it does or not, but I should be sorry if it does not, and I should imagine that the officer specially appointed by the Board would command the respect of the community. In 1894 it was not possible to find sufficient members of the Board to undertake the work of supervision during the time of the plague, and we were obliged to call for volunteers. We did not get a great many civilian volunteers; I did not see any unofficial members of the Council volunteering, but we did get men from the army, and I imagine that in a similar difficulty we should probably get assistance from the same direction.

His Excellency Major-General BLACK suggested that the additional officer should be named by the Board and approved by the Governor.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL then altered his amendment and embodied the suggestion made by His Excellency Major-General Black.

The amendment was seconded by the COLONIAL TREASURER and the by-law was approved.

The remainder of the by-laws were approved without amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved that the by-laws as amended be referred to the Sanitary Board for its consideration, with the request that the Board would send in its report before the 17th inst.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.
Carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until next Monday.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, General Managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, inform us that they have received the following telegram from the Mines:—"The Eureka Mine 150 tons 138 ounces Mill starts again on the 10th of May the developments of the Mine fully justify the expectations which have been formed."

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 6th May. Dr. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon) presided and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A VOTE OF THANKS TO DR. AYRES.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Before we proceed with the order of the day I desire to move a resolution. At the last meeting of this Board I myself and the other members of the Board were not aware that my predecessor in the Vice-Presidency of this Board would not attend the meeting to-day. We were not aware that he was leaving the colony so soon, and I feel sure that if we had thought that that meeting was to be his last here we should have expressed to him our thanks for the work he has done on this Board. The resolution I beg to move is—"That this Board desires to convey its sincere thanks to Dr. P. B. C. Ayres for the valuable assistance he has rendered to the Board as one of its members and for some time as its Vice-President, and to express its deep appreciation of the important services rendered by him in the interests of sanitation in this colony." There are present here to-day gentlemen who have had a longer experience of the colony than I and who can testify to the good work Dr. Ayres did in the early days of the colony and before this Board existed. I can only say that I think all members will concur with me that in recent years and at all times Dr. Ayres has been of the very greatest assistance to this Board and has always given us the benefit of his long and wide experience, and I feel sure that the members of this Board will regret very much his departure from this colony.

Mr. EDE—I entirely concur with what has been said by the Captain Superintendent of Police with regard to Dr. Ayres. Some of the good work he has done in the interests of sanitation in this colony has come under my own personal knowledge, not only while he was a member of this Board, but before the Board was established. On one occasion he made a searching inspection and investigation in some of the slums of this city, the consequence being that he had a very serious illness from which he very nearly lost his life. I most heartily second the resolution which has been proposed by the Captain Superintendent of Police and I only regret that the genial doctor is not here himself to hear what has been said.

The PRESIDENT—In supporting the motion proposed by the Captain Superintendent of Police and seconded by Mr. Ede I would refer to the loss the Board has sustained since its last meeting in the departure from the colony of Hon. F. A. Cooper and Dr. Ayres. At the last meeting Mr. Ede referred to the conspicuous ability and the extremely able manner with which Mr. Cooper always conducted the business of the Board. This afternoon the Captain Superintendent of Police has referred to Dr. Ayres's connection with this Board. I am sure that you will all agree with me when I state that Dr. Ayres has never spared himself in the performance of his public duties; indeed it was whilst investigating an outbreak of typhoid fever shortly after his arrival here that he himself contracted the disease, the attack nearly proving fatal. It is more in connection with the Medical Department that I have been associated with Dr. Ayres, and whereas Mr. Cooper has left behind him many lasting monuments, such as the Central Market, &c., Dr. Ayres will be chiefly remembered by his skilful medical attendance on the Government officials and their families and his many acts of kindly charity, known in most cases to the recipients alone. Regretting as I do the departure of these officials from the colony I would that their mantle had fallen on more able shoulders. In undertaking the duties of this post I can only say that I shall make it my utmost endeavour, with your hearty assistance and support, that this Board shall continue in the future, as it has done in the past,

to safeguard the public health of the colony and to fulfil the many duties required of it.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT FOR 1896.

The annual report of Mr. J. R. Crook, Sanitary Surveyor, was laid on the table. During last year plans had been deposited for the redrainage of 1,786 houses, and 1,449 houses were carried forward from 1895. The redrainage of 2,128 houses had been completed during the year, leaving 1,023 carried forward to 1897. New notices for repairs or additions to the drainage arrangements of 328 houses had been received and 43 were carried forward from last year; of these 290 had been completed, 9 cancelled, and 72 carried forward. The report also showed the work done in connection with the inspection of private drains and water closets. Certificates had been granted during the year to 425 houses as having been built in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance. Terraces had been set out and formed at the south end of the Mount Caroline cemetery to accommodate 216 graves, which, it was estimated, would suffice for ten months reckoned from January last.

It was agreed to send the report to the Colonial Secretary for the information of the Governor.

PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

From the 18th March to the 7th April the number of cases of plague in the city and suburbs of Bombay was 1,471, and the number of deaths 1,327. This return showed an average of 70 cases per day and a death rate of 90 per cent.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 24th April the death rate was 18.3, as compared with 31.4 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 1st May the death rate was 14.1, as compared with 27.5 for the corresponding week of last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until next Thursday week.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on the 7th inst.—

Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), H. Smith (Vice-Chairman), N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of the last monthly and special meetings were read and confirmed.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

The Chairman proposed that the Arbitration Committee should consist of the same members as last year, viz., Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, G. B. Dodwell, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, and T. H. Whitehead. He also proposed that the Correspondence Committee should remain unchanged, with the substitution of his own name for that of the late Chairman, viz., Messrs. R. M. Gray, N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, and H. Smith.

Seconded by Mr. Ede and carried.

RULES FOR REGULATION OF TRANSIT

PASSES.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary transmitting copy of letter from H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton enclosing copy of provisional rules governing the issue of outward transit passes at that port.

Acknowledgment had been sent to Colonial Secretary and copies of the rules supplied to local Press.

PROPOSED REGISTRATION OF CHINESE TRADE MARKS AT SINGAPORE

Read letter from Singapore Chamber stating that it had been asked by Straits Government to consider the advisability of passing an Ordinance for the Registration of Chinese Trade Marks, and asking for information as to the working of such Ordinance in Hongkong.

Draft reply considered and adopted.

THE LIGHT DUES QUESTION.

Read letter from Leith Chamber of Commerce, in reply to Chamber's circular letter and enclosures of the 28th Jan., expressing readiness to join in any representations to be made on the

subject to the Government by other Chambers of Commerce.

INVITATION TO JUBILEE BANQUET IN LONDON.

Read letter from Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce, inviting Chairman of this Chamber to attend a banquet proposed to be given to the Colonial Premiers when they are in London in June next in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

A reply was sent by last mail thanking the London Chamber for the courtesy shown, but regretting the inability of the Chairman to accept the invitation.

PROPOSED BOUNTY ON RAW SILK EXPORTED FROM JAPAN DIRECT.

A circular letter from the Yokohama Chamber enclosing copy of a letter addressed to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Tokyo on the subject of a Bill passed by the Imperial Diet on the 24th March (but which has not yet received Imperial sanction), providing for payment of a bounty on all raw silk exported from Japan direct, and asking for the Chamber's co-operation in making an energetic protest against such action, was read and considered.

After some discussion it was resolved to reply to the effect that this was a matter for the Foreign Ministers in Japan to take up, and the Committee hope that they will act promptly and energetically to prevent such a violation of the spirit of the Treaties. This Chamber heartily sympathises with the Yokohama Chamber, and will, should diplomatic resources fail, join in any protest it may be decided to make.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF VESSELS ARRIVING FROM FORMOSA IN JAPAN.

Read letter of date from Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of telegram from H.B.M.'s Minister at Tokyo to the effect that medical inspection would be enforced against vessels from Formosan ports arriving in Japan.

The Secretary stated that copies had been sent to local Press.

PROPOSED TAXATION ON IMMIGRANTS IN SINGAPORE.

The Vice-Chairman drew attention to the proposal being now made by the Straits Settlements Government to levy a capitation tax of \$1 per head on Chinese immigrants into those settlements.

The proposal was generally regarded as a retrograde step, but it was resolved to inquire further into the matter before taking any action.

HONGKONG AND THE POSTAL SUBSIDY.

The report of the Sub-Committee on the proposal of the Imperial Government to increase this colony's contribution to the subsidy paid to the P. & O. S. N. Co. for the Eastern mail service was read.

Decided to circulate it among the Committee for further consideration.

(Correspondence.)

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE TRADE MARKS.

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 3rd April, 1897.

Dear Sir,—The Committee have been called upon by the Government to consider the policy of passing in this colony an Ordinance for the registration of Chinese trade marks.

2.—The application to the Government comes from one or two of our leading Chinese importers of Chinese goods, chiefly tea and silks, who allege that forgery of Chinese marks is common here and is on the increase; that in the absence of registration there is great difficulty and expense in proving the right to, and the piracy of marks, and owing to the usual poverty of offenders seldom any chance of recovering damages.

3.—The Committee apprehend that the introduction of such an Ordinance would quickly necessitate general registration and thus cause great inconvenience and expense, with but little compensation, to our European importers, whose experience hitherto has led them to rely, with preference, on the existing laws for the protection of marks registered in England.

4.—It is stated in support of the above application that the registration of Chinese trade marks in your colony "gives protection and causes no annoyance and that forgeries are not so common as here, the fact of registration

enabling the Courts to punish forgery more severely."

The Committee are therefore desirous of learning from you as much as possible as to its operation and would therefore ask you to be so good as to favour them with any information on the following points:—Its advantages and/or disadvantages, whether much availed of or not, the cost of administration and how provided, whether and how it has interfered with goods registered at home or their importers, and any other particulars bearing on the question now before the Committee.

Thanking you in anticipation,—Yours faithfully.

ALEX. F. GUNN,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
8th May, 1897.

Alex. F. Gunn Esq., Secretary, Singapore Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd ult. stating that your Committee have been called upon by the Straits Government to consider the policy of passing in the Straits Settlements an Ordinance for the registration of Chinese trade marks, and asking for information as to the operation of such a law in this colony.

1.—The introduction of such an Ordinance would undoubtedly necessitate general registration, which obtains here and has done so for some years.

2.—The working of the Ordinance has so far been successful; and only a limited litigation has ensued during its operation.

3.—The privilege of registration has been pretty generally availed of by British and Foreign firms and patentees, and to a moderate extent by Chinese. The latter have chiefly resorted to it for the purpose of protecting chops of tea, preserves, &c.

4.—With reference to the cost of administration, this has been purely nominal in this colony, the work being effected in the Colonial Secretary's Office without the provision of extra assistance. The chief source of expense is the necessity for employing legal assistance and advertising the trade mark.

5.—I cannot learn that registration locally has in any way interfered with registration of goods at home or with the importers. Home registration must certainly have priority over local registration, but the latter is regarded not only as confirmatory but as affording protection to trade marks. A further advantage that may be claimed for local registration is that in cases of dispute it would be considered *prima facie* evidence of ownership. In one or two instances applications for registration here have been refused on the ground that the trade mark sought to be protected was a colourable imitation of one already registered.

My Committee are of opinion that the law is on the whole beneficial to trade and neither costly nor inconvenient.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

LIGHT DUES.

Leith Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated,
Leith, 5th March, 1897.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 28th January with enclosed prints with regard to the light dues now levied and proposed to be levied on vessels entering the port of Hongkong. These I had an opportunity to-day of laying before my Directors, who are much impressed with your statements and the injustice of the excessive light dues proposed to be levied, and I am instructed to say that this Chamber is disposed to join in any suitable representations on the subject which may be made to the Secretary of State by other Chambers of Commerce and shipping.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

D. W. BEATTIE,
Secretary.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

THE SECRETARY OF THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE TO THE GOVERNOR.

Hongkong.

3rd May, 1897.

Sir,—On behalf of the Jubilee Committee I have the honour to forward herewith for your Excellency's information a copy of resolutions passed at a meeting held on Monday, the 26th ultimo, and to express a hope that they will meet with the approval of the Government.—I have &c.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Honorary Secretary.

His Excellency,
Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.
&c., &c., &c.

RESOLUTIONS.

(1).—That the most useful and most befitting manner of permanently commemorating the completion of the sixtieth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria will be to erect a Hospital for women and children and the training of nurses, to be handed over to the Colonial Government, who have undertaken to maintain it in conjunction with and on the same footing as the Government Civil Hospital, and to subscribe towards the completion of the carriage road round the island, the former to be called "The Victoria Jubilee Hospital," and the latter "The Victoria Jubilee Road," or such other names as may be thought more appropriate by the Committee.

(2).—That this Committee take immediate steps to raise funds from all sections of the community of Hongkong for the purposes mentioned in the preceding resolution, and for local celebrations.

(3).—That the money so collected, together with an equal amount promised by the Colonial Government, be deposited at interest in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the name of the Jubilee Committee, and be disbursed by them after paying for the local celebrations—one half towards the erection of the Hospital for women and children and the training of nurses and the other half towards the construction of the first section of the carriage road from Kennedytown to Aberdeen which the Government undertakes to commence forthwith and to carry on the remaining portion of the road until completed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 5th May, 1897.

Sir,—In reply to the letter of the Honorary Secretary of the Jubilee Committee of the 3rd instant forwarding for the information of His Excellency the Governor a copy of resolutions passed at a meeting of the Jubilee Committee held on Monday, the 26th of April, I am directed to state that the resolutions meet with the approval of the Government.—I have, &c.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Honourable C. P. Chater, Chairman, Jubilee Committee.

From Soochow comes the news that a strong band of Hunanese and other *Kolao Hui* having recently joined the notorious pirates and salt smugglers of the Tahu Lake, near Soochow, made a sudden attack last week on a Salt Preventive station at Chuching, not far from the mouth of the lake, and killed eight of the soldiers there. The station was then set on fire and destroyed, as well as a Yangtze gunboat lying off the place. The raiders had not gone far on their return journey when they met a squadron of three gunboats cruising in the vicinity after the salt smugglers. The superior numbers of the pirates again carried the day and captured two of the gunboats, together with a quantity of Martini rifles. The military authorities of the preventive service have petitioned Governor Chao of Soochow for a supply of four Gatling guns and 200 stand of Martini rifles. With these they expect to make short work of the pirates when they get to the latter's haunts.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

PROGRAMME OF ARRANGEMENTS.

The arrangements for the celebration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty the Queen's reign were decided upon at a meeting of the General Celebration Sub-Committee held on Thursday afternoon, there being present Hon. C. P. Chater (Chairman), Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. F. H. May, Mr. R. M. Gray, and Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Hon. Secretary). The programme is as follows, but it will be subject to alterations that the Committee may deem necessary to make or to any suggestions that may be received by the honorary Secretary from the general public. On Sunday, the 20th June, the Jubilee Committee will meet in the Council Chamber and proceed in a body to St. John's Cathedral and join in the thanksgiving service. The public rejoicings will commence on Tuesday, the 22nd June. At ten o'clock in the morning there will be a meeting of the Legislative Council for the special purpose of sending a message of congratulation to Her Majesty the Queen. At eleven o'clock addresses for presentation to the Queen will be received by His Excellency the Governor, who will, we understand, hold a reception at the conclusion of these proceedings. In the afternoon there will be a grand naval and military review at the Happy Valley, in which every available man in the naval and military forces, including the Volunteers, will take part; and in addition to this imposing spectacle a Hymn of Praise will be sung by a choir of about three hundred voices, the instrumental music being supplied by the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment. The musical members of the community have expressed their willingness to heartily assist in making this grand feature a success, and Mr. W. Danby has consented to undertake the organisation of the choir. In the evening there will be a display of fireworks at various points on the sea frontage and the junks and other craft in the harbour will also be illuminated. The last occasion there was a display of this kind in the harbour was in March, 1894, when there was a festival on land and water in honour of the restoration of the Man Mo Temple, and, as on that occasion, Mr. H. E. Wodehouse has been requested by the Committee to make the necessary arrangements. The Committee will be extremely obliged if members of the shipping community and owners of steam launches, cargo boats, and other vessels will lend their cordial co-operation to any scheme that may be suggested to them by Mr. Wodehouse. Commander Rumsey has also kindly consented to do all he can to ensure the success of this interesting item. On Wednesday, the 23rd June, the foundation stone of the Hospital for Women and Children and Training Institute for Nurses will be laid, and this ceremony will be followed by the laying of the first stone at Kennedytown of the new road round the island. Both the stones will have to be laid on the one day, as if one was laid on the 22nd June perhaps many people would be prevented from getting to the Happy Valley in time for the grand review. On the afternoon of the 23rd June a gymkhana meeting will take place at the Happy Valley and not only will there be races for China ponies but events such as foot races, bicycle races, &c., in which the members of the general community will be able to compete. In the evening the firework display will be repeated and also, if possible, the illuminations in the harbour. It is also proposed to have an exhibition of curios and it is hoped that the Committee will be able to obtain the use of the City Hall for that purpose. Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, the compradore of the National Bank, has undertaken to carry out the arrangements in connection with this exhibition. Another happy idea is the giving of a treat to soldiers, sailors, and police and also to the children in the convents and homes, such as the Victoria Home and the Po Leung Kuk. In honour of the occasion the Chinese theatres will be open day and night and there will be special attractions symbolical of long life and happiness.

For the sake of convenience we give below a list of the celebrations in tabulated form:—

Sunday, June 20th—Thanksgiving Service in St. John's Cathedral.

Tuesday, June 22nd—Meeting of the Legislative Council at 10 a.m. for the purpose of sending a congratulatory message to the Queen. Presentation of addresses to the Queen at Government House at 1 a.m., and reception by His Excellency the Governor. Review at the Happy Valley in the afternoon and the singing of a Hymn of Praise. Illuminations and fireworks at night.

Wednesday, June 23rd—In the morning the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Hospital for women and children and the first stone of the new road. Gymkhana meeting at the Happy Valley in the afternoon. Illuminations and fireworks at night.

General—Exhibition of curios at City Hall; treat to soldiers, sailors, police, and children; special attraction at Chinese theatres.

We think that everyone will agree that the General Celebration Sub-Committee could not have drawn up a better programme in honour of the occasion. The conditions prevailing in this colony are such that it is a very difficult matter indeed to frame a programme which will satisfy the wishes of the entire community, and therefore the Committee must be congratulated upon the comprehensiveness of the programme to be carried through in honour of the record reign. As regards private illuminations and decorations each resident can do as much as he pleases in this respect; the more he does the merrier. The Chinese, so we are informed by the Hon. Secretary, are determined to make an exceptionally bright display, as not only will there be extensive private illuminations, but triumphal arches will be erected and generally they will unmistakably display their feelings of loyalty to Queen Victoria. On Tuesday last a meeting of about fifty Chinese residents was held in the Registrar-General's office and a Committee consisting of a hundred Chinese gentlemen was appointed to carry out the wishes of the Chinese community, who are most anxious to show their warmest appreciation of the benefits they have derived from British rule.

Many people are anxious to see a strong fleet of British men-of-war lying in the harbour on Celebration Day, and we sincerely trust that Admiral Buller will be able to so dispose of his ships that there will be a magnificent and unparalleled display of warships for the occasion. They ought to be represented in Hongkong as they have never been represented before.

It has been decided to have a special record of the celebrations made and the Rev. T. W. Pearce, of the London Mission, has promised to give his aid in drawing up this literary memorial.

The collection of the European subscriptions commenced yesterday and the collection of the Chinese subscriptions will commence on Monday next.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

A meeting of the Committee of the above Fund was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, the 4th May.

The Chairman of the Committee (Sir John Carrington, K.C.M.G.), presided.

The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Thomas Jackson) laid upon the table the annexed statement of the subscriptions raised in Hongkong.

The Chairman moved the following resolution:—"The Committee desires to place on record its grateful sense of the devoted and self-denying efforts of its Hon. Treasurer, T. Jackson, Esq., in the collection of subscriptions for the Fund and also its high appreciation of the successful result of those efforts."

The Hon. Wei Ayuk seconded.

The resolution was carried.

It was also decided that the Chairman should address letters to the Hon. C. P. Chater and Mr. Mody thanking them for the great assistance rendered by them to the Hon. Treasurer in collecting subscriptions.

It was further resolved that the Chairman of the Hongkong Committee should address a communication to the Chairman of the Relief Committee at Calcutta enclosing a copy of the minutes of this meeting, and informing him that the subscription list in Hongkong had been closed.

The Hon. Secretary (the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart) was requested to transmit a copy of the minutes of the meeting to His Excellency the Governor for his information.

On the motion of the Hon. Wei Ayuk a vote of thanks to the Chairman was carried. The meeting then adjourned.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

In account with Hon. Treasurer.

Dr.

1897	Rs.	\$
Feb. 11 To amount wire to Calcutta	50,000 @ 164	30,487.50
" 22 To amount wire to Calcutta	20,000 @ 165½	12,084.59
Mch. 31 To amount wire to Calcutta	12,000 @ 160	7,500.00
Apl. 22 To amount wire to Calcutta	384 @ 160	240.00
" 26 To amount wire to Calcutta	651½ @ 160	407.00
	Rs. 88,035½	\$50,719.09
	Cr.	

1897	\$
Mch. 31 By amount of subscriptions in Hongkong as per Lists	50,072.09
Apl. 22 By contribution received from R.M.S. Empress of India	240.00
" 26 By contribution received from North Formosa per H.B.M. Consul, Tamsui	407.00
	\$50,719.09

(Sd.) T. JACKSON,
Hon. Treasurer.

Hongkong, 4th May, 1897.

THE ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

We have received from Mr. N. J. Ede Chairman of the Sub-Committee appointed to prepare the address to Her Majesty, an advance copy, which is given below. The address itself is being prepared and in order to save time copies will be circulated and signatures obtained on loose sheets to be bound with the address as soon as it is ready:—

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY VICTORIA,
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND, QUEEN, EMPRESS
OF INDIA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

The undersigned, Residents of Hongkong, of all races and of all classes, subjects of Foreign States dwelling in this Colony as well as the subjects of Your Majesty, desire most respectfully to tender to Your Majesty on this the sixtieth anniversary of your accession to the Throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland their heartfelt congratulation and good wishes, and they pray that Your Majesty may long continue in health and happiness to reign over the vast empire that, under Your Majesty's guidance and care, has during the last sixty years grown so exceedingly great in size, in population, and in wealth.

Hongkong as a British Colony has known no other Sovereign than Your Majesty. It was added to your empire before Your Majesty had been many years upon the throne. It was then a barren island, to-day it is the site of a prosperous city, by your gracious permission called after Your Majesty; it is a fortress, a naval station, and by no means the least important of the great trading centres in Your Majesty's dominions. For its prosperity and progress it is indebted to the healthy operation of that freedom of commerce which distinguishes Your Majesty's Government from all the Governments of the world and to the constant observance by Your Representatives of those constitutional principles by which Your Majesty has always been guided in your administration of the empire.

Your Majesty's subjects resident in Hongkong yield to none in their devotion and loyalty to Your Majesty's person and throne, in their admiration for the many noble qualities that

have enabled you to support for so many years the great burden of the Empire, and in their love for the woman and the Queen whose virtues have adorned the palace and sustained the throne and whose sympathy with sorrow and suffering has been extended to all alike, rich and poor, native and foreign, without distinction of race or creed.

The deep reverence in which Your Majesty is held by your faithful subjects is shared by all the residents of Hongkong of other nationalities. Your virtues, your sorrows, your devotion to duty, and the great example of your life, are before the world and have won for Your Majesty the widest recognition and the most profound respect. The Chinese who within Your Majesty's Colony of Hongkong find peace, order, and good government specially desire to express their most respectful concurrence in all the congratulations and in all the professions of admiration with which Your Majesty is greeted on this auspicious occasion from all quarters of your world wide dominions

THE POLICE REPORT.

The report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for 1896 was laid before the Legislative Council on the 3rd May. We make the following extracts from it:—

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 12,975, showing a decrease as compared with the return for 1895 of 400 cases or 2.99 per cent.

In the division of these cases into serious and minor offences, there appears a decrease as compared with 1895 of 453 cases or 16.37 per cent. in the former, and of 53 cases or 0.49 per cent. in the latter category.

The decrease as compared with 1895 in serious offences of 453 is shown as follows:—

Decrease.	
Robbery with violence	3
Unlawful possession	155
Larcenies	356
Felonies not already given	2

516

Deduct increase

63

453

Increase.

Murder	5
Burglary and larceny in dwelling	39
Offences against Protection of Woman and Girls Ordinance	19

63

It will be observed that the decrease is principally in the offences of unlawful possession and larceny, while the largest increase is in burglaries and larcenies in dwelling houses.

During the 1st quarter of the year there were 522 reports of serious offences; during the 2nd 604; during the 3rd 561, and during the 4th 568.

During the first two quarters the Light and Pass law was very rigidly enforced, no less than 2,637 persons being apprehended during that period for contravening it. During the 3rd quarter this particular law was less rigidly enforced, only 652 persons being apprehended, while in the 4th quarter the enforcement of the law was much relaxed, only 113 apprehensions being made in October, 52 in November, and 23 in December.

MURDERS.

There were no less than 8 cases of murder brought to the notice of the Police during the year. The number is much above the average. The shooting of two guardians of the Peace by prisoners in their custody is the most unsatisfactory feature in the record.

(1.)—On the 2nd January at Shauiwan, Pan Kon Lai, a coolie, living in the village, was shot by an Indian constable stationed there, who immediately afterwards committed suicide.

(2.)—On the 12th of the same month a Chinese boy 8 years of age was found evidently murdered near the Upper Richmond Road. A silver anklet which the child had been wearing was subsequently found in a pawnshop. The pawnbroker stated that it had been pawned on the 11th January by a boy aged 13 years. No arrest was made.

(3.)—On the 23rd of February a Chinese residing at Victoria was found evidently murdered on the road between Wongneichong and Deep

Water Bay. The deceased, who was in poor circumstances, gave out before leaving Victoria that he was going to Wongneichong to collect some money. No arrest was made.

(4.)—On the 2nd May Constable Hoggarth arrested a Chinese at 10.30 p.m. for robbery at Cross Street, and handed him over to a District watchman while he went in pursuit of another man. The prisoner shot the District Watchman and escaped, but was smartly re-arrested by Hoggarth after an exciting chase. The prisoner was convicted of murder and hanged.

(5.)—On the 12th July Chinese Detective Constable Lai Tak Shing was shot by a man named Lai Mit, whom he attempted to arrest for larceny. Lai Mit was subsequently arrested in China and tried and executed there.

(6.)—Early in the morning of the 27th August a widow, her son-in-law, and grandson, living in a boat at Hung Hom, were attacked by five men armed with knives. The woman was killed and her son-in-law received serious injuries, of which, however, he recovered. The woman was apparently regarded as a witch, and it is supposed that the attack upon her arose out of a quarrel with some fishermen, who imagined that she had defrauded them by her witchcraft. No arrest was made.

(7.)—On the 19th September four Hakkas and two Shanghai horse boys employed at Kennedy's Livery Stables quarrelled over a woman, with the result that two of the Hakkas were stabbed to death with a pocket knife. The Shanghai men were arrested. One was convicted of murder and hanged, and the other was acquitted.

(8.)—On the 24th October the body of a Chinese fisherman was found on the shore at Stone-cutter's Island. It was ascertained that the deceased and two companions, while in his fishing boat off Green Island on the previous day, had been attacked and murdered by the crew of another fishing boat. Two men were arrested and brought to trial, but acquitted. The parties were members of two rival secret societies which had their head-quarters in Chinese territory and had been at enmity for some time.

ROBBERIES WITH VIOLENCE.

Among the eight cases under this heading were 6 cases of highway robbery, 1 of street robbery, and 1 of earring snatching.

(1.)—On the 28th February a coolie was met by a man at 6.20 p.m. in Jubilee Street, who levelled a revolver at him and robbed him of \$50. No arrest made.

(2.)—On the 26th March at 12.15 p.m. a European lady, while walking in Richmond Road, was robbed of a gold watch by two Chinese. No arrest made.

(3.)—On the 21st of May at 10.15 a.m. a coolie was robbed by a Chinese on the Bowen Road of some \$3. No arrest made.

(4.)—On the 3rd June at 8.45 p.m. a Chinese servant in European employ was attacked by three men on the Peak Road, wounded with knives, and robbed of \$41. One man was subsequently arrested and convicted.

(5.)—On the 21st July at 2.30 p.m. a Chinese was robbed by two others of a pair of silk trousers on the road to Stanley. No arrest made.

(6.)—On the 29th December at 3 p.m. a coolie was robbed near Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon, of 60 cents by another coolie, who ran away into Chinese territory. No arrest made.

GANG ROBBERIES.

These have been included, as was the case last year, under the heading "Felonies not already given" instead of under "Robberies with Violence" as was done in 1893 and 1894.

There were six of these robberies.

(1.)—On the 14th January at 4 a.m. three men broke into a house at Quarry Bay, tied up the inmates and stole property to the value of \$140. Two men were subsequently arrested, one of whom was convicted.

(2.)—On the 23rd February at 7 p.m. four men entered a clothes' store in Queen's Road West, and stole clothing and money to the value of \$76. No arrest made.

(3.)—On the 12th March at 7.30 p.m. six men entered a matshed at Quarry Bay and robbed the inmates of \$56. No arrest made.

(4.)—On the 14th April at 9.15 p.m. four men entered a clothes' shop in Queen's Road East, and stole property to the value of \$114. No arrest made.

(5.)—On the 2nd May at 10.15 p.m. four men entered a shop in Cross Street, and robbed the

inmates of \$55. An alarm was raised after the robbers left, and one of them was arrested after he had shot a District watchman. He was convicted and hanged.

In all the above cases the robbers were armed with revolvers.

The sixth case was a robbery committed by boat people on another boat at Hung Hom. One man was arrested and convicted at the Police Court.

BURGLARY AND LARCENY IN DWELLING HOUSE.

The increase under this heading is principally in the latter of the two crimes. Carelessness in not keeping money and jewellery properly secured has had much to do with the increase.

FELONIES NOT ALREADY GIVEN.

The principal crimes included under this heading and not already referred to were:—

Manslaughter	8
Arson and attempted arson	6
Drugging	4
Embezzlement	8
Forgery	13
Housebreaking	20
Perjury	1
Rape	2
Shooting and wounding	1
Suicide	9

GAMBLING.

There is a decrease under this heading, and I am able to report that there is very little public gambling carried on in the colony at the present time.

DRUNKENNESS.

Has not increased. There is nothing else in the returns calling for particular remark.

PROSTITUTION.

The full effect of the abolition of the registration of brothels is now beginning to be felt.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1894, which repealed the Sections of Ordinance 11 of 1890 providing for the registration and regulation of brothels, came into force in September of the former year.

In December, 1893, there were registered in the colony 134 brothels for Chinese with 1,592 prostitutes, and 49 brothels for non-Chinese with 262 prostitutes, giving a total of 183 registered brothels and 1,854 registered prostitutes in them.

It is estimated that there existed at the same time 30 sly brothels, with 100 prostitutes living in or frequenting them; giving a total of 213 registered and sly brothels and 1,954 prostitutes.

Although registration has ceased, brothels in the Colony are still distinguished as "open" (i.e. public) and "sly." The open brothels are conducted as openly as the former registered brothels were. The sly brothels are not so openly conducted, but more openly than the old sly brothels.

With the cessation of registration an immense number of sly brothels sprang up, while a large increase took place in the number of open brothels. There are to-day 70 so-called open brothels for non-Chinese with 380 prostitutes, 237 open brothels for Chinese with 2,023 prostitutes; and 215 sly brothels for Chinese with 675 prostitutes, or a total of 522 brothels and 3,078 prostitutes.

Brothels are of course, not now restricted to certain parts of the town, as they were under the registration system.

Many complaints have reached me from the Chinese community of the way in which brothels are now opened indiscriminately all over Victoria. At the same time only two prosecutions have been instituted under Section 4 of Ordinance 6 of 1894, since that Ordinance came into force.

Chinese will suffer almost any inconvenience and annoyance rather than appear in a Court of law, and it is futile to hope that the Chinese community will ever make any serious effort to stop by recourse to law the nuisance caused by the opening of brothels in respectable quarters of the town.

There are other and even more undesirable features of the uncontrolled state of prostitution in the Colony, which I have dealt with in a separate report.

STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED.

The value of property reported stolen during the year was \$53,499.59. The value of that

recovered by Police and restored to owners was only \$3,468.

LOST PROPERTY.

The following is a return of the property reported as lost and recovered by the Police during the year:—Articles lost, 135; value lost, \$3,414.30; articles found, 116; value found, \$456.57; articles claimed, 24.

MENDICANTS.

In addition to the 37 beggars sent up to the Police Court, 168 have been summarily deported to Kowloon City and Canton.

POLICE FORCE.

Five recruits were obtained from the London Metropolitan Police, three from the Aberdeen Police Force, and one from the Royal Irish Constabulary. Two recruits were obtained from England and three from Ireland who had no previous Police service. These men were all enlisted by myself and have given great satisfaction.

CONDUCT OF FORCE.

The conduct of the European Force has been good. The number of reports against Europeans was 53 against 48 in 1895; of these 13 were for drunkenness against 8 in 1895. 7 for disorderly conduct, assaults, and fighting, 4 for sitting down on duty as against 4 and 3 respectively; 2 for asleep on duty, and 6 for neglect of duty against 5 and 5 respectively.

The conduct of the Indian contingent has been less satisfactory. There were 303 reports against men of the Indian contingent, while only 162 were recorded in 1895, but the Indian Force stood 40 per cent. greater in strength last year than in the previous year. Of the reports 16 were for drunkenness against 12 in 1895, 22 for disorderly conduct and fighting against 11, neglect of duty 33 against 15, 46 for absence from duty, drill, &c., against 22, 49 for idling, &c., on duty against 33, while 16 were asleep on duty against 9 in 1895. Two members of the contingent were convicted before the Magistrate—one for larceny and one for wilfully damaging property.

Members of the Chinese Force were reported 452 times against 512 in 1895. The contingent has much improved in matters of discipline.

No case of drunkenness occurred and 1 was recorded in 1895—there was, however, an increase of sleeping on duty, there being 61 cases against 44 in 1895—for disorderly conduct and assault the reports decreased from 13 to 8; absence from duty was much less, being 141 against 203. Sitting down, &c., on duty showed 76 against 95, while for leaving beats, &c., before relief they fell from 41 to 6. Six members of the contingent were convicted by the Magistrate, viz.:—1 for making a false charge, 1 for giving wilful false evidence, 3 for misconduct as Police Constables in extorting money, and 1 for demanding money with menaces. The cases of extortion and demanding money with menaces occurred among the Water Police and I have reported specially on the subject.

HEALTH OF THE FORCE.

Has not been so satisfactory as during 1895. The admissions to Hospital in each year were as follows:—

	1895.	1896.
Europeans	81	90
Indians	233	366
Chinese	113	120

Aberdeen seems to have become less unhealthy. This is probably due to the fact that a good water supply has now been provided for the village. The admissions to Hospital from that Station for the last four years were—1893, 47; 1894, 45; 1895, 12; 1896, 19.

EDUCATION.

During the year one European and twenty-four Indian Constables obtained certificates for knowledge of Chinese, and six Indian Constables for knowledge of English.

BARRACKS.

It has not yet been found possible to improve the conditions of the Barracks in the Eastern and Western Districts, to the unsatisfactory condition of which I referred in my report for the year 1894, para 18. I trust that the matter may receive attention soon.

The Government have received a telegram from H.B.M.'s Minister at Tokyo to the following effect:—"Medical inspection enforced against vessels from Formosan ports to Japan."

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

The second annual meeting of the members of the Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong was held on the 7th May at the office of the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited. Mr. W. Macbean presided and representatives of the following Companies were present—Commercial Union, China Fire, South British, Union of London, Hanseatic, Imperial Fire, Scottish Union and National, North British and Mercantile, Batavia Sea and Fire, Manchester, Empress, Fire Insurance Company of 1877, Hamburg, Aachen and Munich, Sun, Transatlantic, North German, Chun On, Prussian National, Hamburg and Magdeburg, Hongkong Fire, Alliance, Eastern, Palatine, London and Lancashire, Royal Exchange, Atlas, London Insurance, Lancashire, Royal, and the Asiatic.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1897, having been in your hands for some days, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read. There are one or two items of expenditure which, perhaps, you may think require explanation. One is the cost of a silver cup presented to the Hongkong Police Force; viz., \$150. As you are aware, in March, 1895, a reward of \$500 was offered by this Association to anyone giving evidence that would lead to the apprehension and conviction of any person guilty of arson. This reward was not intended for the police, but in view of the very prompt and active steps taken by them to secure the evidence which led to the conviction and sentence of the two Chinamen charged with setting fire to their rice shop at No. 48, Praya West, in April of last year, your Committee decided to offer the reward to the Police. H.E. the Governor, however, would not allow them to accept it, whereupon your Committee came to the conclusion that the next best way of recognising the important service rendered by the Police was to present them with a silver cup to be shot for by the members of the Force. This was done and the cup, which was exhibited for some days in Messrs. Robinson & Co.'s window, was handed over to the Captain Superintendent and gratefully received by the Force. At the general meeting the sum of \$250 was unanimously voted to the Secretary in recognition of his services to the Association during the year 1895-96, but during the past year it was thought advisable by the Committee, in consequence of the increased work attaching to the post of Secretary, to pay a fixed monthly salary of \$50, the same as is done in Shanghai and other places where similar Associations to ours have been formed. The other items in the accounts do not call for special comment. On behalf of the Committee I have the pleasure of congratulating the members on the continued prosperity and success of the Association. The tariff of minimum rates as fixed at the special general meeting held on 26th March, 1896, has, so far as the Committee are aware, been faithfully and honourably maintained. Only one important alteration has been made in the rates, viz., in item No. 3 of the European tariff. You will doubtless remember that at the meeting just referred to it was decided to leave the question of the increased rates for buildings and contents of European godowns to be settled by the Fire Offices Committee, London. After careful and mature consideration that Committee decided that the views of the majority of the Companies represented in Hongkong as shown by their vote at the special general meeting should be upheld and that the rate for building and contents of European godowns (specific one godown only) be raised to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and that the rate on contents of a range of godowns (floating) be raised to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Several other questions of importance have been settled by your Committee during the past year. Until quite recently the local offices and one or two other companies used the three conditions of average on their policies. As this was likely to lead to confusion in the settlement of claims, and in order to secure uniformity, these Companies were induced to adopt the first as

pro rata condition of average only and now all policies issued in Hongkong are identical in that respect. As a considerable amount of Hongkong insurances might possibly find its way to London your Committee persuaded the Fire Offices Committee, London, to pass a rule whereby an additional 15 per cent. to the local tariff rates is to be charged on all insurances not effected through local agents. The number of fires in 1896, according to the report of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, which however, is still in the printer's hands, was 30 and the value of property destroyed is estimated by him at \$105,595; but from the returns supplied to our Secretary by the members of the Association interested, the actual value of property destroyed appears to be \$126,063.25. It is very desirable that all such returns be sent in to the Secretary as accurately and as promptly as possible. The number of fires and the value of the property destroyed compares favourably with those of previous years. During the first five months of last year, however, the number of fires was exceptionally large, but thanks doubtless to the conviction of and the exemplary punishment passed on the two Chinamen to whom I have already referred, there was at once a very marked diminution, while during July, August, and September there were actually no fires whatever. I much regret to say, however, that there has again been an important increase in the number of fires this year, many of which, doubtless, are incendiary. There is a case now pending before the Magistrate's Court in connection with the fire which occurred at No. 99, Jervois Street, on 21st April. I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions that may be asked.

There were no question and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and statement of account.

Mr. VEITCH seconded.

Carried.

A discussion then took place with regard to certain tariff rates and the matter was left to the Committee to deal with.

Mr. SHARP moved the re-election of the old Committee, with Mr. R. L. Richardson to fill the vacancy occasioned by the Chairman leaving the colony, and the election of Mr. J. B. Coughtrie as Chairman and Mr. A. Ross as Vice-Chairman.

Carried.

Mr. COUGHTRIE—I am very much obliged to you for this expression of your confidence. I shall do my best in the interests of this Society and I hope we shall pull together amicably and harmoniously. (Applause.)

Mr. ROSS—Ditto as Vice.

A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Coughtrie for the use of his room for the purposes of the meeting.

Mr. ROSS—I have very much pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman and I am sure I carry with me the feelings of all the members of the Association in doing so. Mr. Macbean, in conducting the business of the chair, has shown clear-headedness, tact, and discretion, and in a more private capacity, when consulted by those less experienced than himself, he has been uniformly courteous and obliging. As he has said, he is leaving the colony and I am sure that the best wishes of everyone connected with the company go with him. (Applause.)

Mr. COUGHTRIE—That is a vote of thanks I am sure you will all agree with. Everyone here must have felt that Mr. Macbean was the right man in the right place and now he is leaving the colony we can only express our deep regret at losing him and our hope that we shall find in his successor an equally valuable coadjutor. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried and the Chairman briefly returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. I am sorry I cannot say, what many Chairmen say, that dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow. (Laughter.)

Misfortune seems to persistently pursue the operations for raising the sunken steamer *Birkhall*, says the *N. C. Daily News*. On Saturday, 1st May, when arrangements had almost been completed for lifting her, two of the chains broke, with the consequence that the work has been thrown back very considerably.

THE YANG-TSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Yang-tsze Insurance Association was held at Shanghai on the 29th April. Mr. James M. Young (Chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. H. J. Such, B. A. Clarke, E. B. Skottowe, J. S. Fearon (Directors), W. S. Jackson (Secretary), P. Brunat, M. Wolff, W. Pearce, R. H. Burder, A. Riva, G. Galles, F. Gove, C. M. Adamson, E. Jenner Hogg, A. Cushny, E. A. Probst, I. Turner, and C. O. Liddell, representing in all 2,655 shares. The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary,

The Chairman said—The minutes of the last annual ordinary general meeting, held on the 20th of April last year, having been printed and circulated will, as usual, be taken as read. The report and accounts to the 31st of December, 1896, having been in your hands for some time will also, with your permission, be taken as read. There is again very little in either report or accounts calling for lengthy explanation, and the few remarks I have to make will not take up much of your time. With this in view, the meeting has been called for the rather late hour of 5 p.m. in the hope that it will be found convenient by everybody concerned. You are doubtless aware that the years 1895 and 1896 are generally considered to have been about as unremunerative to underwriters as any on record, perhaps less on account of extraordinary numerous maritime disasters than from a prevalence of inadequate rates of premium brought about by over-competition. This is acknowledged in nearly all the annual reports of the largest Insurance Companies in England, many of whom have to own to large deficits on their underwriting accounts for 1895 which have just been published, and few, if any, seem to hold out prospects of better results for 1896, but which will not be made known till nearly a year hence. January and February of this year are reported from London and Liverpool to have been worse for underwriters than any similar period within the last five-and-twenty years. It is sincerely to be hoped that this may aid in bringing about some improvement in rates, though I am sorry to say there is no sign of it as yet. Under these circumstances your Directors deem themselves fortunate in being able to report a substantial increase in the business of the Association, and it is an especially satisfactory and pleasing feature that this increase is mainly owing to larger contributions from shareholders and foreign constituents. The net premia for the year amount to \$426,929.36 against \$395,200.04 in 1895, and if the losses paid have been considerably larger, namely, \$156,133.11 against \$83,181.25, and those estimated as still to pay upon known casualties \$105,000, against \$90,000, we hope shareholders will still be satisfied with the result. The percentage of losses and claims paid during the year, say 36.57 per cent of the net premia as against 21.05 per cent in 1895, although not to be considered unfavourable for a current year's settlement, shows that we have borne our part, like so many of our neighbours, in the vicissitudes of 1896. The percentage of expenses to net premia is 18.58 per cent against 19.67 per cent last year. From the balance of \$221,129.99 at credit of working account, 1895 and former years, it is recommended to take \$41,688 to pay a special dividend of 10 per cent, or \$6 per share, to transfer \$50,000.00 to reserve fund, and to carry forward \$129,441.99. The working account of 1896 shows a balance at credit of \$256,431.08, out of which it is recommended to pay as dividend \$41,688.00, being 10 per cent, or \$6 per share, and to carry forward \$214,743.08. As to the advisability of strengthening the reserve fund, I have no doubt you will agree with the Board that it is unquestionable, and, if to-day you authorise the transfer of \$50,000, as recommended in the report, that fund will stand at \$450,000. The balance of \$76,783.70 at credit of exchange and investment fluctuation account shows a slight increase of \$4,563.77, but as explained at former meetings represents a profit on paper only. Your directors are satisfied that all the Association's assets are fully worth the amounts represented in the balance sheet.

Of the \$116,180.14 due by agencies, premia in course of collection, about \$100,000 have since been collected. The report briefly alludes to the desirability of disposing of the 1,052 unallotted shares of the Association, but I am not prepared to go more fully into that matter at present, for beyond agreeing that the time for disposal was at hand, and that it would be advantageous to the Association, the directors have not yet gone. I may, however, say that a fair and equal division of these shares, probably at a reasonable premium, among shareholders of record on a certain date, will be their aim in arranging details of the plan of division, of which due notice will be given with ample time for shareholders at a distance to be communicated with. There is no mention in the report of our decision not to undertake fire insurance at present, as we thought it better to lay our views before you in a circular letter than to discuss the matter at this meeting. At the last annual meeting the directors undertook, at the suggestion of a shareholder, to see if it could not be arranged to pay a half-yearly dividend. The Articles of Association permit of the declaration and payment of an interim dividend in the months of July or January. Now the amount of interest collected up to the end of last June would barely have been sufficient to pay \$2½ per share; besides, paying it away would have necessitated touching on other funds for current expenses, which was held to be inadvisable. As regards January, we feel that the advantage of a partial anticipation of the yearly dividend by a couple of months or so was incommensurate with the unavoidable inconvenience and sacrifice connected therewith. When our income from interest has sufficiently increased, as I hope it will, the question may very well be considered again, and it will not be lost sight of by the Board. In May last Mr. Jackson was granted six months' leave, from which he returned in November, having devoted a great deal of his time to the interests of the Association in visiting and arranging matters with our agents at many places, as well as taking a seat for some time in the London office, which services have been of much value to us. During his absence Mr. Cumming was appointed Acting Secretary, and conducted the business of the Head Office to the entire satisfaction of the directors. As already mentioned, the year 1897 opened with an almost unprecedented list of terrible losses amongst first-class risks. During the first five weeks these were estimated at no less than three millions sterling. We have of course been hit, but I am glad to say not very seriously, and indeed, owing to fortunate circumstances, to a much less extent than might have been; in fact, up to the last advices we have received, our underwriting account compares favourably with that of the first three months of last year, the premia issued having exceeded last year's, the losses and claims being about the same. I said last year if the Association continued to receive the support from the shareholders they were then giving there was little doubt the premium income would be larger than it was the year before, as has actually been the case, and I now confidently repeat the same opinion with regard to the year we have before us. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions shareholders may wish to ask to the best of my ability. (After a pause.) If no shareholder has any questions to ask I will propose the following resolution—"That the report of the directors and statements of accounts for the twelve months ended the 31st of December, 1896, as presented, be accepted and passed."

Mr. H. J. Such seconded and the resolution was agreed to *unm. con.*

Upon the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. E. B. Skottowe, the following proposition was unanimously agreed to—"That a dividend of 20 per cent., being \$12 per share on the paid-up capital of the Association, be declared (viz., a special dividend of 10 per cent. on former years' account and a dividend of 10 per cent. on 1896 account) payable on the 10th instant at the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Shanghai, to shareholders of record on the 16th April."

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. F. Gove, seconded by Mr. G. Galles, and agreed to—"That Messrs. James M. Young, H. J. Such, B. A. Clarke, E. B. Skottowe, and J. S. Fearon, be elected directors to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders."

Upon the proposal of Mr. E. Jenner Hogg, seconded by Mr. E. A. Probst, the following resolution was agreed to—"That Mr. Augustus White be re-elected auditor to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders."

Mr. Galles asked whether last year a bonus was not voted to the staff of the Association.

The Chairman replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Gove said he should like to propose the same resolution, and after a short conversation as to its terms he proposed—"That the Directors be authorised to pay to the Secretary and Staff a bonus on their salaries on the same terms as last year."

Mr. M. Wolff seconded, and the proposal was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Jackson, on behalf of himself and the staff, thanked the members for their vote of confidence and bonus.

The proceedings then terminated.—N. C. Daily News.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifteenth ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the above-named Company was held at Singapore on the 30th April. Mr. J. P. Joaquim (chairman of directors) presided, and there were also present Mr. Reid, the Hon. Lim Boon Keng, Mr. Evatt, and about a dozen shareholders.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the directors' report having been in your hands during the prescribed time we will, unless specially desired, take it as read. I regret to have to lay before you a report for the past half-year showing such a heavy loss, but that, as you will have seen from the account and as explained in the report, is owing to the writing off of all the outstanding advances in Jelebu amounting to a sum of \$10,943, and of the sum of \$8,785 for work upon lodes in Jelebu, and Maliwun. It has been said outside that the time has arrived for the liquidation of this Company, owing to the alluvial mines in Jelebu having been played out, and in consequence of the heavy loss in advances. The directors, I may say, have had the question of liquidation before them, but, considering the valuable property they have in the Rin Lode and the quarries in Maliwun, and the prospects of the trading business in ore, opium, and liquors, and in forest produce, they have hesitated in bringing the question of liquidation forward at the present moment. The Rin Lode is being thoroughly prospected, and from the results of the crushing of the lode stuff sent home we believe we have a very valuable property in that lode, and one which in time will be worth considerably more than the amount we have so far spent in prospecting it. So also with Maliwun; here also the stuff sent home has been so favourably reported on that we consider we have a good asset. In trading, there has so far been a small profit, and we hope it will steadily increase. These are mainly the reasons against any attempt at liquidation at the present moment. The interests of the shareholders have the earnest attention of the directors; we have stopped all advances; we have reduced expenditure, and the General Agents have been requested to prepare estimates showing the cost of plant and other details to work the Rin Lode, and it will be the duty of the new Board of Directors to consider them in consultation with the shareholders before undertaking the scheme. As to the Directorate, there are two vacancies to be filled up, one in the place of Mr. Reid, who retires by rotation, and who offers himself for re-election, and the other in the place of Mr. MacBain, who has left for Europe. The directors think it advisable that, in Mr. MacBain's place, a practical man and an engineer should be elected, so that they may have the benefit of his skill and experience in the consideration of the working of the lodes, and you are asked to

day to elect such a director. But if this meeting is not in a position to do so to-day, then the directors will look about and do their best to get such a competent man. There is one point I must refer to before I sit down, and that is the robbery of \$7,000 while in transit from Singapore to Jelebu. This is the first time such a loss has fallen on us since the promotion of the Company. Every precaution was taken to ensure the treasure reaching Jelebu safely. It was packed in the presence of a European, and sent on board in charge of trustworthy persons. It was received on board the *Malacca* by the chief officer of that vessel, and handed by him to the railway authorities in Port Dickson. It was then placed in charge of the guard of the train who, in his turn, handed the case to the proper authorities at Seremban. There it was lodged in the gaol until the Sikh escort was ready, and, when it was received at Kuala Klang and opened by the manager, in the presence of Mr. Keyser, the robbery was discovered. The police both here and in Jelebu have been very active in trying to trace the robbery, but up to the present they have been unsuccessful. The Resident in Seremban has the matter in his own hands, and, from the last letter received a few days ago, the manager in Jelebu has had several long interviews with him, and, so far as Mr. Birch is concerned, we know he will leave no stone unturned. We have offered a reward of \$1,000, and Mr. Huttenbach, on behalf of his own firm, has offered another reward of \$500; but so far no information has been received, and I am afraid we must treat this amount as a total loss. This is a most regrettable incident, especially at the present time. I have nothing more to say, gentlemen, and will be pleased to answer any question you may ask.

There being no questions, the report and accounts, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Evatt, were unanimously passed.

Mr. Reid was re-elected a director, on the proposition of Mr. Evatt, seconded by the Chairman.

It was decided to leave the appointment of a director to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. MacBain's retirement in the hands of the directors.

The re-appointment of Mr. A. J. Gunn as auditor concluded the proceedings.

THE HAIPHONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE FRANCO-JAPANESE TREATY.

At a meeting of the Haiphong Chamber of Commerce held on the 12th April last the Franco-Japanese treaty was considered by the members. On the 2nd March last Messrs. Dousdebès, Malon, and Gage were appointed as a Committee to examine the treaty and they now presented the following report on the subject, which was drawn up by M. Malon:—

"Gentlemen, the members of the committee you appointed at a sitting of the Chamber on the 2nd March, 1897, to present a report on the application to Tonkin of the Franco-Japanese treaty believe that it will be interesting to state in the first place that all three are acquainted with Japan, having either visited or lived in the country.

"They consider it necessary, in order that the situation shall be clearly understood, to point out to you that one of the principal characteristics of the Japanese people is their hatred of foreigners. This feeling is disclosed in thousands of ways to the Europeans who visit Japan or negotiate business matters with them. It was this feeling that engendered the outrages committed by the Japanese against the Czarevitch when he travelled simply as a tourist in the Far East, and against Li Hung-chang when he ought to have been doubly protected as an old man and a plenipotentiary of a conquered nation. This hatred of foreigners is directed to all, French and others, and it is only the arm-chair colonialists (unfortunately so numerous in Paris) who designate the Japanese as 'the French of the Far East.'

"Having made this explanation we will not examine in this report the treaty of the 4th August, 1896, article by article, as we have attentively read the treaty from beginning to end; we will merely point out some of the most dangerous defects.

"In the first place we find in various articles the following form, evidently borrowed from the treaties made between European nations:— 'The French in Japan and the Japanese in France shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as those which are or may be granted to nationals.'

"The European nations or the issue of European races, eager for liberty and having in the main the same political and moral aspirations can, without inconvenience to the contracting parties, employ the above form, but we consider that this interpretation is dangerous for France in the present case as the other contracting party is of the yellow race. In effect, the rights and privileges which are or may be granted to an Asiatic people by its own Government may be suitable for that people without being suitable for the French people. Notice that the rights and privileges of the Japanese, by which it is said we shall profit, are not known to us. They may be susceptible of such modifications as to become to us Europeans veritable vexations and even a danger. What will be the Japanese code in a few years? It will perhaps follow the Asiatic spirit by punishing with death some offences which would be met with a few months' imprisonment according to the French code. People who know the Japanese only by hearsay assimilate them too quickly with our old European races. Without doubt they have a perfect armament, swift vessels, and a flourishing trade, but what trouble have they had to organise all that? For years past Europe has given Japan all the secrets of its complicated mechanism and has spent no end of money in order to gracefully receive the envoys of the Far East, and Japan has largely profited by it. Imitators by temperament the Japanese have quickly copied European procedure and they are, to-day, in a measure, ready to produce and export the majority of the objects required in Europe and America. The last named country is considering the matter very seriously. Such is the situation that we affirm that French imports into Indo-China will gradually fall off if the treaty of the 4th August, 1896, is promulgated in the colony.

"We have often protested again the application in this country of the general customs tariff, but since France is actually protectionist, let us point out the danger as good patriots. Hand labour in Japan is at a low price; the charges for transport between that country and Indo-China, especially by the Japanese steamers, will be so much lower than freight rates between Marseilles and Haiphong, that French products will not be able to compete with those of Japan. Already, at this moment, certain Japanese products, such as matches, clocks, beer, &c., challenge our protectionist tariffs. What will it be when Japan enjoys for its products entering Indo-China the minimum tariff? (Article 7 of the treaty.)

"Therefore, not only in the interest of local commerce, but above all in the interest of the placing of metropolitan products in our colony, we suggest that you should strongly oppose the application of the treaty of the 4th August, 1896, to Indo-China. Article 22 provides that the provisions of the treaty shall be applicable to the French colonies for which the French Government may claim the benefit. As far as Indo-China is concerned that benefit will be negative.

"Concerning the mother country, we wish to point out to the French Chambers of Commerce that the day when the Japanese manufacturers go with their workmen to establish mills or workshops in France, in accordance with article 3 of the treaty, it will be impossible for our countrymen to resist them. As to reciprocity, it is not true. Europeans will never be able to create in Japan prosperous establishments with a European personnel. The reason is simple. The Japanese workman has, as a rule, a salary of only fifteen or twenty francs a month; female hands have only half that. And these Asiatics are already manufacturing all our products, such as clocks, lamps; furniture, carriages, jewellery, hats, watches, boilers, colours, shoes, beer, umbrellas, crystals, chemical products, electric apparatus, printing presses, machines of various kinds, coloured paper, printed cloths, pumps, &c.

"In conclusion we must add that we have

learnt, in Japan itself, that the Government has advanced funds without interest to various growing industries, similar to those of Europe. How then can we compete against these people who pay such a low price for hand labour and get their capital for nothing?

"To sum up, we consider that the treaty herein reported on is all to the advantage of the Japanese. The future will prove it."

In consequence of this report, all the conclusions of which it approved, the Chamber of Commerce unanimously passed a resolution pointing out the danger which the application of the treaty would present to Indo-China and asking that the treaty should not take effect in the colony.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

EXAMINATION OF ACCUSED PERSONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your leading article this morning you point out what has always seemed to me a singular peculiarity of the English criminal law of evidence and you say "A few direct questions addressed to the prisoner would frequently result in bringing his guilt clearly into view when the evidence of other parties falls short of that point. British Law, however, as it stands at present, says that the prisoner must not be questioned and that even if he wishes to make a confession he must be warned that it would be better for him not to do so."

I think you do good service by calling attention to the very different principles which are acted on by common sense people out of court in investigating an offence and interrogating a suspected offender. You would do further good service if you would point out that the anomaly was dealt with in this colony, by legislation, nearly a quarter of a century ago. Ordinance 18 of 1873 was passed expressly to provide for the oral examination of prisoners by (a) the Magistrate, and by (b) the Judge, in the Supreme Court.

As regards examination by the Magistrate, although the Evidence Consolidation Ordinance 1889, and the Magistrates Ordinance (No. 10 of 1890) repealed certain of the sections relating to the examination of the prisoner by the Magistrate this was not because the principle was not fully approved by the Legislature; for the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890, practically reenacts the sections it repealed. It repealed them in order that the subject might be dealt with in its proper place, namely, the Ordinance consolidating the procedure and practice before Magistrates.

Section 98 of the Magistrates Ordinance regulates the subject. It commences as follows:—"Notwithstanding anything in this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for a Magistrate, in any case in which he may deem it expedient so to do, to examine an accused person as in this Section provided."

The procedure is then laid down in the sub Sections as follows:—

(1) Examination of accused by Magistrate.—Upon the investigation or hearing by a Magistrate of any case in which any person is accused of the commission of any criminal offence, the Magistrate may, if he shall think fit, from time to time, at any stage of the inquiry, and without previously warning the defendant or accused, examine him, and put such questions to him as he thinks necessary.

(2.) Record of such examination.—Whenever any defendant or accused is so examined as aforesaid, the whole of such examination including every question put to him and every answer given by him shall, where such defendant or accused shall or is about to be committed for trial before the Court, be recorded in full and shall be shown or read to him, and he shall be at liberty to explain or add to his answer. When the whole is made conformable to what the defendant or accused declares is the truth, the record of the examination shall be attested by the signature of the Magistrate, who shall certify under his hand that it was taken in his presence and in his hearing and contains accurately the whole of the state-

ment made by the defendant or accused. The defendant or accused shall sign or attest by his mark such record, or if he refuse, the Magistrate or Magistrates shall certify the fact of such refusal in writing; and the record of such examination shall be transmitted to the Registrar together with the depositions in the case and any certificate in reference thereto.

(3.) Refusal to answer not punishable.—The defendant or accused shall not be liable to any punishment for refusing to answer or for answering falsely any questions asked under this section, but the Magistrate shall draw such inference as seems just from such refusal.

(4.)—Answers to be laid before the jury.—The answer given by any defendant or accused as aforesaid may be laid before the jury on the trial of such defendant or accused.

(5.)—No influence to be used.—No influence, by means of any promise or threat, or otherwise, shall be used to the defendant or accused to induce him to disclose or withhold any matter within his knowledge.

(6.)—No oath to be administered.—No oath shall be administered to the defendant or accused.

This procedure seems to have been derived from the Indian Code. If the case is committed for trial all that is necessary is for the Magistrate carefully to comply with the requirements of the section and record in full the questions and answers, which can be used at the trial when transmitted by the Magistrate with the depositions, in the same way as the "statement" a prisoner makes after all the witnesses have been examined and the Magistrate has given the statutory caution, in accordance with section 73 of the Magistrates Ordinance. It seems to me it would facilitate the ascertainment of the truth, whether of guilt or of innocence, if this power was more freely used.

Next, as regards the *Supreme Court*. In this case the Ordinance I have mentioned (18 of 1873) deals with the subject in the following sections, which are not repealed:—

No. 18 of 1873.

"AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORAL EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS.

"5.—The judge presiding at any Criminal Sessions may, if he shall think fit, from time to time at any stage of the trial, examine the accused person, and may in like manner question him generally on the case after the witnesses for the prosecution have been examined and before he enters upon his defence.

"6.—The accused person shall not be liable to any punishment for refusing to answer or for answering falsely any questions asked under section 5, but the Court of Criminal Sessions shall draw such inference as seems just from such refusal.

"8.—No influence by means of any promise or threat or otherwise shall be used to the accused person to induce him to disclose or withhold any matter within his knowledge.

"9.—No oath or affirmation shall be administered to the accused person."

Now, where is any hardship on the prisoner in using this power? With Asiatic witnesses, the difficulties in satisfactorily proving a case are often very great. A little point causing much of the doubt could, in many cases, be cleared up by asking the prisoner about it. This has been done by Judges here occasionally, but, accustomed to the English practice, they are apt to feel the prisoner might be in some way prejudiced, and thus are equally apt to forget the English law is modified in this respect in Hongkong, and very properly so. It seems to me the power might well be more freely used.

In England, the difficulties of obtaining trustworthy evidence in a prosecution are not nearly so great as in Hongkong. The fact is, the sturdy English love of liberty evolved many securities against the conviction of the innocent, and quite rightly, too. Unfortunately, however, a century or two ago, an enormous number of crimes were punishable capitally, and although executions were comparatively rare except for treason or homicide and other grave offences, the mere fact that the punishment of death was, in many cases, clearly excessive rendered people glad of an excuse to reduce it or get the accused person found "not guilty." Anything more absurd, for instance, than the spectacle of a man pleading "benefit

of clergy," i.e. "that he could read or write his own name," and thus escaping the death penalty can scarcely be conceived. Yet, at one time, it was quite common in England. Blackstone in 1743 lamented that no fewer than 160 crimes were subject to the penalty of death. The logical course was, at length, followed of reducing the penalties; but I fear there still lingers some of the old feeling, natural when punishments were excessive, that the greater the impediments in the way of proving the guilt of an accused person, the better it is for the community. One naturally sympathizes with the good old English feeling of "fair play for an accused," but when punishments have ceased to be excessive it is difficult to see how the community are gainers by the acquittal of the guilty, and it is difficult to see why the accused, who knows more than anybody else about the matter, is to be the one person who must not be asked anything about it. In Hongkong the law is in advance of that of England in this respect, and I should for my part be glad to see the statutory power of examining an accused person more frequently used than at present.

I extract the following passage from a recent work on Legal History, as it sets out briefly the progress made in improving the law of evidence in England:—"Bentham, in his strictures on the laws of England, attacked some of the rules of evidence then prevailing. He urged that the discovery of truth was the end of the rules of evidence; and, therefore, the incompetency of witnesses ought, as far as possible, to be removed. At that time, the Common Law Courts would not allow evidence to be given by either party to the suit, nor by his or her wife or husband, nor yet by their privies in blood, estate, or interest, i.e. by those persons who might, directly or indirectly, be affected by the judgment. The consequence was the exclusion from the witness box of the people who were most likely to know anything about the matters in question. A further rule was that no person was competent to give evidence in an action if the judgment therein might subsequently be evidence for or against himself. The person accused of a crime was not allowed to give evidence at the trial, neither was his or her wife or husband. The reasons adduced in support of the old rules were that the evidence ought to be that of impartial persons. Our ancestors seem to have been haunted by a bogey of perjury, for they believed that a witness with an interest in the suit would not hesitate to perjure himself in order to further his own ends.

"In 1833, Bentham's views so far prevailed that by 3 and 4 Will. IV., c. 42, it was enacted that no person should be incompetent to testify in any civil proceeding because the judgment therein might be given subsequently as evidence for or against himself. But the old notion was not dead; because the act went on to provide that in no case should a judgment be admitted as evidence for or against any man who had given his testimony in the action. The bill, as it was introduced by Lord Chancellor Brougham, was much more sweeping; but, as yet, parliamentary opinion was not ripe. In 1843, by Lord Denman's Act, the Benthamite theory was carried out still further. No witness was to be excluded from giving evidence by reason of incapacity, from crime or interest, except the parties or their husbands or wives.

"By a further evidence Act, introduced by Lord Brougham in 1851, one of the exceptions in Lord Denman's Act was taken away, and parties to civil suits were allowable and compellable witnesses. Two years later Lord Brougham carried another Act, removing the disability of husbands and wives of parties. This statute left the law practically as it stands in England at the present day; that is, only making incompetent persons accused of crime and their husbands or wives. A great number of the statutes passed in the last twenty-three years have allowed the defendants in criminal proceedings, or their husbands or wives, to give evidence; but in no case have they rendered those persons compulsory witnesses. The Licensing Act, 1872, was the first of these enabling statutes, which now number about

twenty, including the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, the Corrupt Practices at Elections Act, 1883, the Libel Act, 1888, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1894.

"In 1878 a bill was introduced in the House of Commons to remove the disability entirely, and such bills have been proposed in one or other House of Parliament almost every year since then."

It remains to be seen whether public opinion has so far ripened as to enable the bill now in the House of Commons to become law.

W. MEIGH GOODMAN.

Hongkong, 6th May, 1897.

REST HOUSES WANTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Now that the question of roads is to the fore I beg leave to call attention to a want in connection with their use in this Island which can be easily supplied by an enterprising Celestial. Outside the city of Victoria there is no place in the Island where suitable refreshment can be obtained by a European. Not long ago a very popular dweller in a city not far distant visited Hongkong and one day went out to inspect our great reservoir at Tytam. Either the sight of the water or the passing of his usual tiffin time made him thirsty and hungry, and he asked an intelligent native the direction of the nearest town. He was directed to Aberdeen and trudging thither was somewhat disappointed at not being able to get a slice of cold beef and pickles and a cool tankard. "Would you believe it, Sir," he said, "I could not even get a crust of bread and cheese and a glass of beer."

With humbler expectations one might at least look for, say at Aberdeen, Stanley, Tytamuk, or Shaukiwan, some modest shelter provided with clean mats and a raised floor where the rider or pedestrian might get a bottle of beer, soda water, tea, a biscuit, &c.; in fact, some such rest house as one meets on every road in Japan.

There is no pleasanter way of passing a holiday in the cool season than by breasting the hill in pleasant company and with judiciously stored tiffin baskets bound for one of the many beautiful picnic sites on our south-eastern bays, but such concerted expeditions can only be occasional, and the rambler looks for modest refreshment at call and an object, however trivial, for his walk.

If you are kind enough to find a place for this suggestion perhaps it may lead some retired "boy" to relieve his *otium* by a touch of his old trade.—I am, yours &c.,

A VAGROM.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1897.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CARBINE COMPETITION.

FULL RESULTS.

The annual carbine competition in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was concluded on Saturday afternoon. The weather was wretched in the extreme, rain falling in torrents during most of the afternoon and drenching all the competitors to the skin. One ubiquitous sergeant tried to disguise himself as the Duke of Cambridge by carrying an umbrella, but the attempt utterly failed and the only reward he had for his pains was a thorough soaking, as the umbrella was much too small to cover so much glory! It was indeed a pity that the weather was so bad, because otherwise there would doubtless have been a large attendance of ladies to witness the shooting for the Ladies' Purse and the Ladies' Nomination prizes; as it was half a dozen ladies braved the pitiless storm and lent a pleasant aspect to the sombre surroundings. Miss Carrington gracefully presented the Ladies' Purse, which was very prettily made in the Corps colours with the initial letters "H.K.V.C." and the year "1897" worked on the side. Sergeant Smyth, who, by the way, received his promotion only on Saturday, was the lucky recipient and after making an appropriate little speech presented Miss Carrington with a handsome bouquet. Cheers were then raised for Miss Carrington, for the ladies of Hongkong, and for Major Sir John Carrington. The Commandant thanked the Corps on behalf of his daughter and expressed

the opinion that the meeting had, on the whole, been very successful. The prizes, outside those won in the ladies' competitions, would be presented at a concert to be given shortly at headquarters and he hoped this would go off with as much eclat as the Volunteer dance and the annual inspection. After this interesting ceremony was over the volley firing took place. The results did not come up to the anticipations formed at the practice meetings, but they were fairly good considering that the smoke hung about the ground—Volunteers mustn't use cordite—and obscured the targets. This event concluded the meeting, which has certainly been the most successful one since the re-organisation of the Corps. The highest scores are given below.—

CORPS CHAMPIONSHIP.

	200 yds.	400 yds.	400 To- yds. tal.
Corp. (a) G. P. Lammert, M.G. Co.	29	35	32 96
Sergt. (b) G. C. Hayward, F.B.	30	32	33 95
Gunner Hornby, M.G. Co.	30	31	31 92
Sergeant Lowrie, F.B.	29	33	30 92
Gunner Gow, F.B.	27	33	30 90
Captain Chapman, F.B.	29	32	29 90
Corporal Henderson, F.B.	28	34	28 90

(a) Also wins Machine Gun Co.'s Championship.

(b) Wins Field Battery Championship.

AGGREGATE (HANDICAP).

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 H'cap To- yds. points. tal.
Corp. Henderson, F.B.	28	34	28 6 96
Corp. Lammert, M.G. Co.	29	35	32 0 96
Sergt. Hayward, F.B.	20	32	33 0 95

	200 yds.	H'cap To- yds. Points tal.
Lieut. Maitland, M.G. Co.	28	3 31
Gunner Gilchrist, F.B.	28	3 31
Gunner Hornby, M.G. Co.	30	0 30
Gunner Shepherd, M.G. Co.	30	0 30
Sergt. Hayward, F.B.	30	0 30

	400 yds.	H'cap To- yds. Points tal.
Corp. G. P. Lammert, M.G. Co.	35	0 35
Corp. Henderson, F.B.	34	1 35
Corp. Rankin, M.G. Co.	32	3 35

	500 yds.	H'cap To- yds. Points tal.
Gunner Cotton, F.B.	29	5 34
Gunner Shepherd, M.G. Co.	33	0 33
Sergt. Hayward, F.B.	33	0 33
Corp. Lammert, M.G. Co.	32	0 32
Gunner J. H. A. Hance, F.B.	27	5 32
Gunner Hornby, M.G. Co.	31	0 31
Sergt. Lowrie, F.B.	30	0 30
Gunner Gow, F.B.	30	0 30

OFFICERS' CUP (HANDICAP).

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 H'cap To- yds. points. tal.
Lt. Maitland, M.G. Co.	30	29	26 16 91
Captain Chapman, F.B.	29	32	29 0 90
Lieut. Wylie, F.B.	25	28	23 10 86

RECRUITS' SERIES (HANDICAP).

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 H'cap To- yds. points. tal.
Gun. Hornby, M.G. Co.	30	31	31 0 92
" Hart, W.	24	25	25 12 86
" Cotton, J. T.	20	24	29 13 86

SERVICE CUP (DRILL INSTRUCTORS).

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 To- yds. tal.
Q.M.S. Smith, R.A.	29	24	15 68
Sergt.-Major Severn, R.A.	25	17	16 58

SIGNALLERS AND TRUMPETERS' CUP.

(Seven shots at 150 yds.)

Signaller Silas	25
" Michael	23
" Craig	16
" Hubbard	16

INTER CORPS CHALLENGE CUP—8 MEN ASIDE.

Sergt. Hayward	95	Corp. Lammert	96
Sergt. Lowrie	92	Gunner Hornby	92
Gunner Gow	90	Corp. Smyth	90
Captain Chapman	90	Gunner Shepherd	89
Bomb. Stewart	84	Lieut. Maitland	85
Gunner Brown	83	Corp. Rankin	76
Gunner White	80	Corp. Crombie	69
Lieut. Macdonald	76	Gunner Pumfrett	56

Total.....700 Total.....653
Average—87.5 Average—81.6

LADIES' PURSE.—(Seven shots, standing, at 200 yds.)

	Points
Sergt. Smyth, M. G. Co.	28
Sergt. Lowrie, F. B.	24
Sergt.-Major Duncan, F. B.	24

LADIES' NOMINATION.—(Seven shots, any position, at 200 yds.)

	Points
1.—Sergt. Armstrong, F. B., nominated by Miss Armstrong	28
(Prize presented by N.C.O. Machine Gun Co.)	
2.—Sergt. Smyth, M. G. Co., nominated by Mrs. Smyth	28
(Prize presented by Sergeants Field Battery)	
3.—Corp. Lammert, M. G. Co., nominated by Miss Aitken	27
(Prize presented by Mr. N. J. Ede)	
4.—Gunner Wilkinson, F. B., nominated by Mrs. G. J. Williams	27
(Prize presented by Sergt.-Major Duncan, F.B.)	
5.—Gunner Shepherd, M.G.Co., nominated by Miss Shepherd	26
(Prize presented by Messrs. Kelly & Walsh.)	
6.—Gunner White, F.B., nominated by Mrs. White	26
(Prize presented by Mr. W. D. Graham.)	
7.—Sergt. Hayward F.B., nominated by Mrs. Hayward	25
(Prize presented by Mr. Chau A Tong.)	
8.—Capt. Chapman, F.B., nominated by Mrs. Chapman	25
(Prize presented by Mr. Henry Humphreys.)	
9.—Gunner Cotton, F.B., nominated by Mrs. Cotton	25
(Prize presented by Messrs. Brewer & Co.)	
10.—Gunner Hornby, M. G. Co., nominated by Mrs. Bruce Shepherd	24
(Prize presented by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens.)	
11.—Lieut. MacDonald, F. B., nominated by Mrs. MacDonald	24
(Prize presented by Messrs. W. Powell & Co.)	
12.—Gunner Plummer, M. G. Co., nominated by Mrs. Plummer	24
(Prize presented by Mr. Wang Hing.)	

VOLLEY FIRING (prizes presented by H.E. Major-General Black, C.B.)

1.—No. 1 Section Field Battery—Lt. Macchell, Section Commander.	
2.—No. 2 Section Machine Gun Co.—Lt. Fullerton, Section Commander.	
3.—No. 3 Section Field Battery—Lt. MacDonald, Section Commander.	
4.—No. 2 Section Field Battery—Lt. Wylie, Section Commander.	
5.—No. 1 Section Machine Gun Co.—Lt. Maitland, Section Commander.	

"CAMP GAZETTE" CUP. Aggregate at 200, 400, and 500 yds. (with Handicap), including the Ladies' Purse and Ladies' Nomination. The winner must have attended 8 drills at 1896 Camp.

CONSOLATION PRIZE. (Seven shots at 150 yards, standing.)

1.—Gunner Arthur, M. G. Co.	27
2.—Corp. Meek, Field Battery	27
3.—B. Sergt.-Major Duncan	24
4.—Gunner Shepherd	24

IMMIGRANT TAXATION AT SINGAPORE.

The following contributed article appears in the *Singapore Free Press*—

It seems a good thing to keep the proposed Ordinance to provide funds for the building of Immigrant Examination depots well before those interested in all its possible bearings, as, on a closer consideration than could be given to it on its appearance, in your issue of Saturday, it would appear not only to be destructive of the status which is held by Singapore and Penang, as being free ports, but to be objectionable to every other interest, except that of a Government which finds it absolutely necessary, for some urgent reason, to raise money. Even if it be admitted that this urgent necessity exists, and the proposed tax meets with the endorsement of the Council (which we take leave to doubt if the question is fought vigorously), then it should certainly be collected by the Government direct from the coolie, either here or by officers stationed at the ports of embarkation. But, as the Ordinance is to be presented to the Council, the shipowner, or master, or agent (the same thing for this purpose) is not only made the Government collector, but, in effect, would be bound to become, in a very short time after the Bill became law, the absolute payee. It is questionable whether the coolie business on shore is not managed as efficiently now, by private Chinese enterprise,

under the present control of the Protectorate, as it is likely to be when the Protectorate assumes full charge. But, though it be admitted that the Government will be able to show an improvement, they will barely claim that it will be more than a change for the better for the coolies. For this, undoubtedly, the coolie, if he desires the improvement, should pay, and that directly to the Government who are protecting his interests. It will doubtless be argued that all the shipowner has to do is to add the tax to his present passage money and he is at once reimbursed. People, however, who know anything of the coolie-carrying trade between China and the Straits, and only those interested as shipowners do know this part of it, will recognise the futility of this apparently easy proposition. Even now steamers are being run often at a loss, in good times on a very small margin of profit; and although, at first, the extra dollar would doubtless be added to the passage money, after a very short interval the heavy competition for full complements of passengers, would induce Chinese shipowners to cut rates, bit by bit, until at last the present rates would rule again, out of which the steamer would have to pay one dollar for each passenger.

And, again, if the erection of these proposed depots is really necessary, does not the coolie traffic itself already pay enough to the Protectorate to have them provided out of the funds contributed to that department by the incidental revenue coming therefrom? It may be noticed that revenue to the local Governments arises through all labour which is imported to and stays in the Malay Peninsula, through mining and planting industries and, in fact, through all other work, and this is increased again in the case of the Chinaman, for he it is who gives us our opium revenue. When he goes out of Singapore to neighbouring ports to work, we find he is also a source of income to the Protectorate by means of fees on contracts. Taking the Blue Book of 1895 it is seen that the fees in the three Settlements were as follows:—

Singapore	\$23,746
Penang	11,725
Malacca	917

Total \$36,388

There are, besides, many other incomes derived from shipping which are not mentioned there. From this, doubtless an increasing yearly revenue, practically derived directly through the coolie steamers, it is not too much, it may be argued, to ask the Government to built their depots out of general revenues instead of handicapping the shipowner, and through him the employer of Chinese labour, by laying this heavy tax upon the wrong shoulders. It must again be urged that, if a tax be necessary, which, with the evidence before us, we hesitate to admit and if it cannot be got from general revenue, which it can, it should be laid directly by the Government on the departing coolie. But, as against the necessity for the tax at all, it should be remembered that if the Government build depots and take over the control of coolies from the present Chinese depot keepers, they are dealing not only with self-supporting but highly profitable institutions. The yearly arrival of coolies may be taken at present at about 200,000 souls, and with the exception of 1894, the year of the Chinese bubonic plague, immigration has shown a steady increase. Surely the ordinary and indirect Government profits derived from these men should be sufficient to pay for the accommodation desired and leave it unnecessary to saddle the shipowner with a burden which is bound to fall, even if the tax prove to be only "temporary" (of which we have no guarantee) directly upon his already heavily taxed shoulders. It may also be noted that Mr. Capper in his report mentions the fact that this depot scheme has been urged on the Government since the seventies. What has happened recently which makes them just now more necessary than in the seventies? It might be thought that having done without them for twenty-five years we could bear the postponement of their erection until we could afford to pay for them without the enforcement of a new tax. If the necessity is no greater now than heretofore, and that necessity is felt to be so very pressing

as to call for the tax, then the Government have neglected their duty in not dealing with such a glaring want in their administration during the last quarter of a century.

In brief the Government are asking the Legislative Council for a doubtfully necessary blank cheque, drawn on the shipowner, and this matter should engage the careful attention of the Chambers of Commerce and especially of the Hon. T. C. Bogaardt, before it is accepted for debate. In any case it should be insisted upon that if the Government want this money they should get it themselves from the proper person—the coolie and not the shipowner.

LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

CHAMPIONSHIP (FINAL.)

Gibson beat Farie by three sets to one. There was a large attendance on the ground to witness the match and the players were frequently applauded. The play was characterised by hard hitting throughout. At the conclusion H.E. the Governor presented the prizes won in the tournament so far, and in presenting the championship prize highly complimented Mr. Gibson on his magnificent play.

"A" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP (SEMI-FINAL.)

Moberly beat Mayson.

Moberly beat Farie (Final.)

PROFESSIONAL PAIRS (SEMI-FINAL.)

Mayson and Skelton beat Pellew and Bartrum.

DOUBLE HANDICAP (FINAL.)

Platt and Pellew beat Smith and Atkinson.

"B" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

Hume beat Wood.

E. D. Mallinson, R.N. beat Grant Smith—6-4, 6-1.

VETERAN'S SINGLE HANDICAP (FINAL.)

Skelton beat Sercombe Smith—6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

THE PHILIPPINE LOAN.

The following telegram, dated Madrid, 30th April, appears in the *Comercio* :—

The Hispano-Colonial Bank, with which negotiations have been proceeding for the issue of a loan of \$30,000,000 for the Philippines, requires that the loan should be guaranteed by the Spanish Treasury. The Colonial Council declares that it has no authority to accede to this demand. Under these circumstances negotiations are being opened with other Banks for the realisation of the loan.

A Madrid telegram to the *Comercio* dated 3rd May states that all negotiations with reference to the proposed Philippine loan have been suspended. Until the Chambers authorise the issue of the loan the Banco de Espano will provide the necessary accommodation.

THE BOUNTY ON THE DIRECT EXPORT OF RAW SILK FROM JAPAN.

Mr. O. Keil, Secretary of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce, writes us under date of 28th April as follows :—

With reference to my communication of April 12th, regarding this Chamber's protest against the bounty on raw silk exported by Japanese subjects direct, I am instructed by my Committee to inform you that the Doyen of the Foreign Representatives at Tokyo has replied thereto :—

"That the Foreign Representatives do not consider that it would be expedient, under existing Treaties, for them, as a body, to make any representation whatever to His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Government in regard to the matter."

Individual replies from most of the Foreign Representatives state that they will give the matter their fullest attention.

The proposed measure has now become Law, having received the Imperial sanction on April 22nd; but no details have yet been settled as to either the amount of the subsidy or the manner in which it is to be given.

These details are left to be settled by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

RUSSIA, JAPAN, AND KOREA.

We take the following Tokyo press despatches from the *Kobe Chronicle's* translations :—
Tokyo, 27th April.

In reference to the reported engagement of Russian soldiers by the Korean Government, Count Okuma, the Foreign Minister, has issued an instruction to the Ministers at St. Petersburg and Seoul, ordering them to communicate to the Governments of the countries to which they are respectively accredited that although the engagement of Russian soldiers has no direct relation to the Russo-Japanese Convention, yet neither Japan nor Russia may send more soldiers to Korea than the other. Under these circumstances (whether it be on the application of the King of Korea or not) the dispatch of more soldiers by Russia to Korea is at variance with the spirit of the Convention. The Ministers to the two countries are instructed to inquire of the Government of each country if there is any truth in the report.

Seoul, 28th April.

It is believed to have been the design of Russia since the arrival here last year of the first Russian officers to send a larger force under pretext of training the Korean army. The Russian Minister is said to have urged on the Korean Minister for War the advisability of obtaining more Russian officers for this purpose. On the 21st inst. a draft contract for the engagement of Russian officers was presented to the Foreign Minister and the question was considered by the Cabinet on the following day.

Korean Ministers and officials in the main object to the proposal, but are afraid of opposing Russia. The Foreign Representatives in Seoul appear to be watching what action Japan will take.

Tokyo, 29th April.

The Foreign Office has received replies from both the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg and the Japanese Minister at Seoul to inquiries respecting the proposed engagement of more Russian officers by the Korean Government.

The Minister at St. Petersburg says he is informed that the Russian Government last year agreed that a certain number of officers should be lent to Korea in order that the Korean army might be reorganised, the application coming from the Korean Ambassador who attended the Tsar's coronation. But since that time the situation has changed, and it is not the wish of the Russian Government to do anything that may endanger the peace of the Orient.

The Japanese Minister at Seoul states that he is informed the agreement with Russia to engage more Russian officers was made some time ago, and that as there is no occasion now for fulfilling the contract, the agreement will not be carried into effect unless Russia presses the matter.

It is reported that the Japanese Government will conclude a more detailed Convention with Russia, in order to avoid trouble that may possibly arise in connection with the dispatch of military officers and men to Korea from either country.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD'S VISIT TO FOOCHOW.

Foochow, 1st May.

The event of the week has been the visit of Sir Claude MacDonald to this port. He arrived on Monday, the 26th inst., in H.M.S. *Humber* and was met at the Pagoda by Mr. Consul Carles and Mr. Vice-Consul Joly. The following morning at an early hour he received the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and was subsequently "at home" to callers until luncheon time. In the afternoon, accompanied by Consul Carles and attended by his two secretaries and two naval officers, His Excellency called on the Viceroy, which, owing to the distance of the *yamen* from the Consulate, occupied the rest of the day. On Wednesday morning His Excellency received the return visit of the Viceroy, and later in that day he started to see something of the beauty of the Yuenfoo branch of the river before embarking again in the *Humber*.

The *Humber* went to sea yesterday, bound for Shanghai. It is certain that our distinguished visitor left the most favourable impressions behind him here.—*Echo*.

THE DEATH BY DROWNING OF THE REV. J. S. COLLINS.

Foochow, 1st May.

The telegraphed news last week of the death by drowning of the Rev. James S. Collins, of the C.M.S., has, we regret to say, been confirmed. The sad occurrence took place on Tuesday, the 20th ulto. According to the account received he had taken a passage in a rice-boat on his way from Yeng Ping to Kucheng. The large steering oar of the boat broke in passing down one of the rapids and the craft becoming unmanageable Mr. Collins jumped into the river. Good swimmer though he was he was unable to cope with the strength of the stream and was seen to sink. The body was recovered several miles lower down the river and was brought to Foochow. An inquest was held on Wednesday morning, which, however, after viewing the body and investigating the circumstances attending the death as far as possible, was adjourned until further witnesses could be present at it.

The funeral of the late Rev. James S. Collins took place at noon on Wednesday, at the Foochow Cemetery. It was very largely attended, and besides foreigners there were quite a number of native converts of both sexes present. The burial service was impressively read by the Ven. Archdeacon Wolfe and the Rev. L. Lloyd. Before leaving the chapel the beautiful hymn "Peace, perfect peace" was sung—and after the interment the native converts, led by the missionaries, sang a hymn in Chinese. Before the final close of the service the Archdeacon addressed the natives in their own language and it was pleasing to notice the marked attention paid to and interest taken in the Archdeacon's words. The solemn service was brought to a close with the benediction. There were innumerable wreaths on and around the coffin brought by sympathising friends.—*Echo*.

ANOTHER CHINESE LOAN.

The following telegrams appear in Japan papers :—

Peking, 27th April.

The Chinese Government, acting through Li Hung-chang, has entered into negotiations with an English mercantile house for a loan, with a view to paying in a lump sum the balance of the indemnity due to Japan. The negotiations are almost complete. German financial representatives have offered to float a loan, but the Chinese Government evades the offer.

Tokyo, 29th April.

The Chinese Government is very anxious to have the Japanese troops at Wei-hai-wei withdrawn, and the Japanese Government, desiring to be on terms of friendship with China, has agreed to the suggestion on condition that the Chinese Government pay in a lump sum the balance of the indemnity due to Japan. The Chinese Government has accepted this suggestion and is taking steps to comply with the condition.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICES OF THE REV. GILBERT REID.

The following gratifying testimonial was presented by H.E. Li Hung-chang to the Rev. Gilbert Reid a few days before he left Peking on his return to America :—

Peking, China, 12th April, 1897.

To Rev. Gilbert Reid, Founder of the Mission to the Upper Classes of China, Peking.

Dear Sir,—Having on various occasions gladly shown my interest in the good work recently organised by you among the educated and official classes of China, through whom the masses may be readily enlightened by means of Western knowledge; and knowing also of the many years of self-denying labour you have devoted to the welfare of the people in various parts of China,—it is with much pleasure that I offer you this testimony on the eve of your departure for the United States.

I have admired the bold and tireless energy with which you have faced the difficulties of your present task. It is unfortunately true that suspicion, prejudice, and self-sufficiency are peculiar traits of educated Chinese, especially noticeable in their estimation of other

countries—perhaps because of the isolation of China from Western influence for so many centuries; but whatever may be the case, the lamentable effect is seen in the present backward state of China among the nations of the world.

The social, educational, and official systems of China have tended to give to the educated classes control of the destinies of the nation. Whether such a monopoly of power be good or bad need not now be considered; it exists, and the practical question is how to turn it into beneficent and useful channels.

You have set about solving this problem in a way that should commend itself to every friend of humanity. Unquestionably, if you can give to the blind leaders of our people light and learning enjoyed in the West, they, in turn, will lead our people out of their darkness. I think I may claim to have many friends in the United States where you now go. The cordial reception I met with wherever I went there made a deep impression upon my heart and has greatly endeared your people to me. If it would interest them to know that I regard you highly and will give you a helping hand in your future efforts to bring more light into the world and encourage higher aims for aspirations, you may use for that purpose this letter from

Your friend,

[Signed] LI HUNG-CHANG,
Senior Guardian of the Heir
Apparent;
Classical Reader to His Majesty the Emperor;
Senior Grand Secretary of State;
Minister of the Foreign Office;
and Earl of the First Rank.

—N. C. Daily News.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

TRADE RETURNS.

The *British North Borneo Herald* publishes the trade returns of that State for 1896. The total imports amount to \$1,882,188 against \$1,663,906 for 1895. Out of 37 headings 27 show an increase, treasure coming first, then follow foodstuffs (rice, sugar, vegetables, &c.), machinery and railway material, kerosine and other oils, opium, tobacco, and clothing. The total exports amount to \$2,420,234 against \$1,962,350 for 1895. Out of 38 headings 28 show an increase. Tobacco shows the largest, and accounts for one-third of the total increase on exports for the year; 8,700 bales were shipped in 1895, 10,448 in 1896, and it is estimated that the 1896 crop shipped in 1897 will amount to 14,500 bales. Rattans, cutch, timber, gutta, coffee, dried fish, copra, live stock, and gambier come next. The gross volume of trade has increased by over 18 per cent.

TELEGRAPHS.

Sandakan became connected with Labuan telegraphically on the 7th April. The latter port is connected with Hongkong as well as Singapore, thus giving residents in the Territory an alternative telegram route to Europe. That the upkeep will for some time be difficult is very probable, as jungle lines suffer under special disadvantages; but the fact that messages have gone through demonstrates the feasibility of the lines. In process of time the line trace will probably develop into a broad high road between the two termini—the surest means of inducing settlement and trade.

LABUAN.

The annual report on Labuan for 1896 contains the following information on the Central Borneo Company's colliery at that port:—A new colliery is being opened at Batu Merending about 1½ miles from the existing colliery, which latter is being extended considerably, and new machinery, pumps, locomotives, waggons, &c., are being made in England at present, and are due here in April and May. Two tunnels and a shaft are in progress, and it is expected that next month the seam will be reached, when there will be a considerable increase of output. A new wharf was built during the year. It has a depth of water alongside of 27 feet at low water. Near the wharf are placed anchors and buoys to which steamers coaling there can make fast. The wharf was completed in July, and

the buoys and anchors laid in October. At the mines there are employed about 600 men, in addition to about 250 men, who discharge coal from the waggons and load steamers. The general health of the workmen is good.

DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The precise form which the celebration of H.M.'s Diamond Jubilee is to take in Sandakan has not yet been decided on. As already announced, a public recreation ground is, for one thing, to be laid out, and the Chinese advocate a display of fireworks.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

An annual Court was opened on the 3rd inst. Thirty-five prisoners from the various districts were brought before H.E. the Governor. Their crimes were of various descriptions. After trial the prisoners were sent back to the prisons of the various districts. The Governor has memorialised the Throne stating his decisions in the various cases. It is a rule that after the final trial in this Court the prisoners are each granted by the Government one thousand two hundred cash, two cakes, a fan, a rain hat, and a rain coat. The Governor this time granted in addition to the above presents one dollar to each prisoner.

A good many Chinese merchants have made preparations for carrying on business at Wuchow. A merchant has farmed the lekin tax on kerosine and matches. A lekin station is to be established in Tung-ki Street. A Chinese newspaper to be called the *Kwang Yan Po* is to be established shortly. The Custom House was opened on the 2nd instant. A Sansz named Lo Kam-wing applied some days ago to the Prefect of Wuchow to be allowed to employ steam launches running between Canton and Wuchow. The Prefect sent the application to the Viceroy of Canton, but His Excellency refused to grant it on the ground that it would be a danger to the lekin tax.

As already reported, a rebellion has broken out in Shikson, a district belonging to the prefecture of Kuchow. The violence of the rebels has become very great and their number has been enlarged. Several days ago the city of Shikson was surrounded by the rebels and all the citizens deserted the city. The local Magistrate and the soldiers escaped. The rebels broke into the city and took possession of the fort. It is said that the Canton Government will send Colonel Cheng Yau-tsoi to cope with the rebels.

A notorious robber named Hu has gathered together a large number of criminals and the band has taken up its abode in Lo-hon-shan, in the district of Hoi-ping. They often come forth in large numbers to commit robberies and other serious crimes. Nearly all the people residing in the neighbourhood have suffered more or less from their ravages. Some days ago the local Magistrate went himself with a number of soldiers to cope with the robbers. Two of the robbers were caught and sent to Canton for trial.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

Macao, 7th May.

A few days ago a telegram was received from Lisbon ordering some six or seven officers to proceed from Macao to Timor and that \$25,000 was to be sent for the expenditure of that island. The mail which left only a few days before took \$20,000, so that in one month Timor has drawn from Macao the sum of \$45,000. No words can express the chagrin of the people of Macao at seeing our money going out in this way. The Lisbon Government is quite blind to the interests of Macao. This colony wants money to meet her own requirements and ought to be allowed to expend its own revenue instead of having to keep up the sister colony. Everyone knows how the Praya wall was ruined by the typhoon of last year, and, shameful to say, the wall still remains in the same state, as if the typhoon had only occurred yesterday. The Government said the Leal Senado must repair the wall, but after all this time nothing has been done. The Government should make enquiry and see if it is true that the Leal Senado cannot effect the repairs. The fact

is this Corporation has no means for the execution of great works, and the Government, instead of sending money out of the colony, should retain it for the rebuilding of the Praya wall and the execution of other necessary works.

If the colony is to be left like this, without care or attention on the part of the home Government, the local Government being left without power and without resources, better would it be to offer the colony to any other nation that will accept it. We would then be happier than under our own flag. Our hopes for better days for this colony have all faded away and we see ruin for the colony and its inhabitants daily approaching nearer. Soon Macao will be blotted out from the number of European colonies in the Far East and forgotten. Our communication with the civilized world is interrupted, the shipping trade is almost finished on account of the silting up of the harbour, and the telegraph lines are interrupted almost daily. Why is all this? Because the Government will not look to the colony's welfare.

Another way in which Macao's money is wasted is in payment of the passages of Government servants going to and coming from Lisbon almost monthly. The Government should see to this and be a little more particular.

Last Wednesday a very sad accident happened at the Cement Works. A Chinaman while working at one of the crushing machines accidentally got his foot in. Another man who was near stopped the machine, otherwise the man's whole body would have been crushed, and as it was the foot and lower part of the leg were taken off. Medical assistance was sent for, but unfortunately no doctor could be found and the injured man died a few hours after the accident.

No serious apprehension is entertained concerning the plague. It is said that cases still occur occasionally and that last month (thirty-five cases were reported to the authorities.

H.E. Senhor Galhardo is due here on the 11th inst. The *Thomas d'Andrea* will be sent to Hongkong to meet His Excellency and convey him to Macao.

It is to be hoped that Pollard's Lilliputian Opera Company will give the people of Macao a chance of seeing them. I am certain a visit from them would prove very welcome. It is a long time since we have had a good company here.

Macao, 10th May.

The Lisbon Government has at last awakened to the detrimental effect of the high tonnage dues charged at this port, and in Saturday's *Boletim Official* the following notification appears:—

"For its due effect and in order that immediate execution may be given to it the following telegram is published:—

"Lisbon, 6th May, 1897.

"Council of Government, Macao.

"Article 3 of a decree of 30th April provides that steamers from Hongkong, Canton, Pakhoi, Hoihow, ports on the West River, and all other Chinese ports shall be exempt in Macao from tonnage dues and all other port dues. Execute.

"MINISTER.

"To be complied with.—Secretariat General of the Government of Macao, 8th May, 1897.

"ALFREDO LELLO.

"Secretary General."

No doubt we will now again see steamers visiting the port, though they have to wait for the tide.

This encourages us to hope that gradually the Lisbon Government will pay more attention to the welfare of Macao. Now that tonnage dues have been abolished we hope the next step will be the abolition of all trade monopolies, notwithstanding that the great advocate of monopolies is on his way out again to resume his duties as Inspector da Fazenda. Let every one enjoy freedom in trade and I am persuaded the colony will once more flourish and the revenue increase.

Many rumours are in circulation in connection with the arrival of the new Governor. It is said that on the day when the Commission of Government has to hand over charge to Senhor Galhardo the Chairman will appear

only by deputy, and also that the President of the Local Senado will resign his place to the Vice-President. If this be true chaos will be introduced into the administration and those who form a party against the new Governor will be deserving of severe censure.

HONGKONG.

Residents have had an opportunity of perusing the address of congratulation to be presented to Her Majesty the Queen. The address was drawn up by a sub-Committee appointed for the purpose and the general opinion is that it is a poor composition, lacking warmth of expression. The arrangements for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee have been decided upon and they have met with general approval. The principal events will be the laying of the foundation stone of a women and children's hospital and nursing institute, the laying of the stone to mark the commencement of the new road round the island, and a grand naval and military review to be held at the Happy Valley. The Legislative Council met last Monday, the chief business being the consideration of new by-laws framed by the Sanitary Board for the maintenance of sanitary dwellings in the colony. At a meeting of the Sanitary Board held on the 6th inst. a resolution was passed thanking Dr. Ayres, the late Colonial Surgeon, for his valuable services to the colony. On Friday the Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong held its annual meeting. The annual carbine competition promoted by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps concluded on Saturday after a most successful meeting.

We are sorry to say that Consul Hunt has not yet completely recovered from the effects of the fall he had from his horse a fortnight ago. The Consul is able to get about his room, but it will probably be a fortnight before he resumes work.

The Tonkin papers continue to harp on the alleged ill-treatment Dr. Yersin received from the medical establishment in Hongkong. It has never been stated, so far as we are aware, what the nature of this ill-treatment was, but, on the other hand, it has been stated that the instructions given by the Hongkong Government were that the young savant was to be accorded every facility in the prosecution of his researches. As the matter is being continually used to stir up ill-feeling in Tonkin it might perhaps not be amiss if Dr. Yersin were officially or semi-officially asked if he has any complaint to make and, if so, to state its nature; though it is perhaps not very likely that even a direct statement by Dr. Yersin himself would satisfy the Anglophobic writers of the Tonkin press. The *Avenir* in its last issue to hand quotes a statement made by the *Hongkong Telegraph* to the effect that Dr. Wilm was shabbily treated by the Hongkong Government—a statement which we would also like to see verified or contradicted—and goes on to say:—"We see in this a similar treatment to that which was inflicted on Dr. Yersin when he was in Hongkong; the manner in which he was received and the light style in which his offers of service were rejected. We were accused at the time of exaggerating the matter and seeking to envenom the question; unfortunately we see to-day that we were in the right and that we correctly appraised the false situation in which our compatriot was placed. In no branch, in no science, in no art can a true Englishman ever be induced to admit that there can be in the whole world anything superior to that which is English. Thus, while our confrères of the local press know that Dr. Yersin has achieved great success at Bombay with his serum the English practitioners pretend quite the contrary and the *China Mail* makes a pleasure of reproducing the criticisms of certain doctors, English naturally, of Bombay." The *Avenir* then refers to an article by Dr. Cabe Dallas, "who is not at all satisfied, because Dr. Yersin has obstinately refused to make known the scientific composition of his discovery. *Tiens!* He knows them, these brave sons of Old England. No sooner would he have divulged his secret than he would have found half-a-dozen 'Albionists' claiming to have discovered it before him."

There were 2,592 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 230 were Europeans.

Ten gamblers were charged at the Police Court on Saturday for keeping a gambling house in Taikoktsui. Three of them were fined \$25 each and each of the remainder was fined \$3.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Captain George Fraser Phillips, 1st Battn. West Yorkshire Regiment, to be His Excellency's Aide-de-Camp.

Mrs. Lewis, the matron of Victoria Gaol, prosecuted a coolie on Saturday for stealing jewellery of the value of about \$40 from her house in First Street. The prisoner was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

The appointment of Mr. W. Chatham to be Acting Director of Public Works is gazetted. Communications relating to the Praya Reclamation Works are to be addressed to Mr. E. Bowdler, the special engineer in charge of the works.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Lane, Crawford & Co. \$50

The Hongkong branch of the Navy League is offering prizes for competition in Queen's College, the Victoria English School, and the Diocesan School for the best essays upon "The Command of the Sea" and "The Use of the British Navy."

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, informs us that he has received the following telegram giving the result of the April cyanide clean-up:—"The cyanide plant worked 14 days treating 360 tons of tailings for a yield of 102 ozs. of bullion of an assay value of £1 14s. 9d. per ounce."

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 30th April, 1897, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	\$1,862,008	\$1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$5,832,437	\$2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	\$ 343,739	\$ 205,000
Total	\$8,038,184	\$3,705,000

The Hon. F. A. Cooper left on the 6th May by the *Mirzapore* to take up his new appointment of Director of Public Works in Ceylon. The regard in which Mr. Cooper is held by those who know him best, namely, the officers of his own department and the members of the Service generally, was recently shown at the dinner given to him at the City Hall; and his colleagues on the Sanitary Board, including the sole remaining unofficial member, Mr. N. J. Ede, paid a high tribute to him at the last meeting of the Board. The community generally have not yet become thoroughly reconciled to the new drainage system introduced by Mr. Cooper and the feelings excited by that and other matters have perhaps still left some soreness behind, but the value of his work is becoming increasingly recognised. In its new Director of Public Works Ceylon has secured an official of ability and energy.

We have received from Mr. Claude Ley Kum a photograph of an oil painting of Hongkong harbour with the fleet as he would like to see it, presented to the Navy League. The original painting has been forwarded to the head office of the League in London, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, the Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Branch, in acknowledging the gift says that Mr. Ley Kum's suggestions for additional ships to be sent out for the China squadron will be circulated to the members of the Committee and his proposals will meet with careful consideration. The picture shows the harbour almost full of warships, and the fleet presents a most imposing appearance. In his letter to the Secretary of the Navy League Mr. Ley Kum enumerates the vessels that he thinks should be added to our naval strength in these waters.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$20,040, being an increase of \$1,274 on the amount collected in April, 1896.

Captain Rumsey has been appointed a member of the Executive Council and Mr. W. Chatham a member of the Legislative Council. Another ear-ring snatcher was brought before the Magistrate on Saturday and sent to gaol for six months with a birching in addition.

A Court of Enquiry was to assemble at Singapore on the 30th April, for the purpose of reporting on the damage sustained by the Lee-Metford rifles of the 1st Battn. Rifle Brigade, through the want of rifle oil for cleaning purposes, and of stating upon whom the cost of repairing or replacing the rifles should fall.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Some of the local vernacular papers report that the Tsungli Yamèn has recommended recently to the Throne an expectant Taotai named Yang Chao-chun, who is also decorated with the peacock's feather and the brevet button of the second rank, for the post of Minister to Germany. From other sources we also learn that Lü Taotai of Chinkiang and acting Taotai at Shanghai last winter has lately received telegraphic instructions from Peking to vacate his post and proceed at once to the capital, "on special promotion." The choice of Minister to Germany will therefore lie between these two officials.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It is said that when Mr. Huang, the Shanghai Magistrate, recently called the headmen of the wheelbarrow coolies to inform them that the French Municipal Council had also increased the tax to 600 cash, to be levied in July next, and to tell them that they were expected to pay that tax also without any demur, the headmen replied that from a canvas amongst their comrades they had found only a dozen or fifteen had signified their willingness to conform to the new tax of the French Council while the rest of them "were obstinate;" hence the headmen prayed His Worship to find a way "to exhort these back-sliders to a proper sense of law and order." It appears that there has still been some delay in drafting the constitution of the new wheelbarrow guild, while those who were at first willing to become the managing Committee have all thrown up the job since the French raised their taxes.—*N. C. Daily News*.

"The Moralist" in the *Straits Times* writes:—"On Wednesday morning of this week His Excellency the Governor had his hair cut. I happen to know it, because it was mentioned to me in the French language by a tonsorial artist, who had the news in the Malay language from a Kling brother of the same craft. The Frenchman was rather wroth about it. He pointed out to me that it was undignified for the Governor of the great colony to employ a mere Kling for such a purpose, when he might come to a French hair-cutting saloon with all the advantages of costly mirrors and hair-dressing by machinery. I understood my hair-dresser to say that the matter would shortly come before the United Association of Tonsorial Artists of the Straits. It would appear, therefore, that we are to hear more of this. Which reminds me that, when we were discussing the matter, a steamship passenger from Hongkong, who had just finished being shaved, chipped in his opinion. He said that Governor Sir William Robinson of Hongkong came down to the Hongkong Club about eleven every morning to drink an affable cocktail with such eminent brokers and others as might then be congregating at the Club bar. The steamship passenger also added that Sir William Robinson delivered lectures to the Odd Volumes upon the humour of Dickens and such other up-to-date subjects; and that that was a Governor to have. I discreetly held my tongue, which is my custom when getting my hair cut, but, in my innermost mind, I then came to the conclusion that, if the Governor of the Straits continue to refrain from lecturing on the humour of Dickens, I, at least, will excuse him for having his hair cut by a Kling. Besides, a Kling is a British subject; and are not all British subjects united in bonds of holy union by the Indian Famine Fund and the arrangements for celebrating the Diamond Jubilee?"

In my opinion, it pays a lawyer to be honest, says "The Moralist" in the *Straits Times*. I am quite aware that, in this matter as in many others, I am singular in my views; but my views are strengthened by a little incident which one of my Chinese friends recounted to me the other day. He wanted to bring an action against somebody about something, and, in the usual trustful Chinese fashion, he took his story to two separate lawyers. In the first instance, the treatment he received from each was precisely similar. Each listened to the story, and each said that he would like to see ten dollars before proceeding to give an opinion. Each got the ten dollars, and each gave the opinion. Lawyer A said: "Certainly, you have a good ground of action. Pay a hundred dollars down, and I will issue a writ." Lawyer B said: "You have not any ground of action, but you can bring an action if you like. You will lose it, but that does not matter to me so long as you pay a hundred dollars down before issuing the writ." The writ was not issued; but my Chinese friend has conceived a higher admiration for Lawyer B than for Lawyer A, and he has narrated the story to a wide circle of friends. The Chinese habit of obtaining the opinion of two different lawyers is certainly ingenious, but I think, perhaps, that my Chinese friends carry it too far when they bring the same practice in the realms of medicine. There is one young Chinese gentleman, for whom I have a high esteem, who was feeling pretty ill some time ago, and, in the short space of one week, he consulted no less than eight *Orang Puteh* doctors. To some extent, also, he tested their different medicines; but, finally, he made a bargain with a medical man of his own great nation upon the admirable principle that the Chinese medical man was to be paid fifty dollars if the patient were cured, and nothing if he were not cured. To the credit of the Mongolian race, I should add that my young Chinese friend admitted that he was cured, and paid up the fifty dollars like a man.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 4th May.—Macao Congous.—On further acquaintance the quality of the New Crop shows some slight improvement over last Season's in flavour and outturn, but the teas are very thin in cup, are broken in leaf, and generally are of very poor appearance. Prices have ranged from Tls. 11 to 19. The first crop will be undoubtedly a light one, owing to dry weather and cool nights: rates for green leaf in the country have been well maintained, owing to the strong demand for native consumption, and are likely to continue firm. For Australia a very small business has been passing. For the Continent, there does not appear to be much enquiry for common bold leaf teas. Independently of "contract" leaf, the Macao market may be said to be bare of stocks. Scented Teas.—A few bales of Caper "leaf" have arrived, but as usual no musters have been shown, the small quantity of scented flower yet on hand, being eagerly purchased for native use.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Canton and Macao	38,772,808	42,138,250
Shanghai and Hankow.....	18,410,313	21,317,405
Foochow	13,749,506	14,676,073
	69,932,627	78,131,728

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai	19,809,591	29,094,771
Amoy	19,863,341	17,971,624
Foochow	11,716,764	13,199,184
	51,388,696	59,265,579

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,949,123	27,249,863

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Yokohama.....	27,567,053	29,311,760
Kobe	15,102,435	18,826,303
	42,669,488	48,138,063

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 11th May.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London advices to 5th current quote Gold Kilings 8/7½, Blue Elephants 9/10½, market dull. Raw Silk.—Business has been almost at a standstill this week past, and settlements are on a very small scale. Tsat-tees.—The only quotation we can give is Tls. 347½ for Ohuntah Chayling, the same tael price as a fortnight ago, but exchange has fallen 2 per cent in the interval. Hangchows, Taysnams, Yellow Silks.—We hear of no transactions. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 22th April to 5th May: 340 bales White, 3 piculs Yellow, and 338 piculs Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filature.—About 100 bales hand filatures have been settled at quotations. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to London 28 bales, to Continent 4,006 bales, and to America 3,484 bales. Wild Silk.—We quote Szechuen Tussah at Tls. 160. Waste Silk.—About 400 piculs Long Shantungs have been bought at Tls. 19, and some Hangchow Gum Waste at Tls. 75.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97 bales.	1895-96 bales.
Canton	24,669	17,618
Shanghai	55,062	54,399
Yokohama.....	19,972	20,531
	99,703	92,548

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97 bales.	1895-96 bales.
Canton	4,779	9,377
Shanghai	8,814	10,069
Yokohama.....	20,978	27,659
	34,571	47,105

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 11th May.—Prices are a shade firmer. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$43.65 to \$46.50. Sales, 150 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—A dull market is reported and prices are declining. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.22 to 7.25 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.67 to 6.70 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.42 to 4.44 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.28 to 4.30 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.15 to 7.17 "
do. " 2, White...	6.50 to 6.52 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.32 to 4.35 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.21 to 4.23 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	10.05 to 11.10 "
Shekloong	9.47 to 9.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Vindobona*, sailed on the 7th May. For Europe:—500 bales and 650 boxes cassia lignea, 1 box chinaware, 11 boxes essential oil, 50 bales galangal, 1 box cigars, 64 bales matting, 145 bales rattans, 8 boxes fans and 8 boxes dried ginger.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—Bengal.—The market for this description of opium continues steady. Closing rates are as follows:—New Patna \$657½, Old Patna \$722½, New Benares \$667½.

Malwa.—Prices continue steady. The latest quotations are as follow:—

New (this yr's) \$760 with all'ance of 5 catties	
(last yr's) \$780	0 to 3½ "
Old (2/4 ") \$800	0 to 1½ "
" (5/7 ") \$820	0 to 2½ "

Persian.—A good amount of transactions have been carried on in this drug, prices remaining steady at the close. Closing rates are for Oily \$500/620 and \$500/610 for Paper-wrapped.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,550 chests.
Old Patna	360 "
New Benares	270 "
Malwa	230 "
Persian	500 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 6	670	720	680	—	760	820
May 7	665	720	677½	—	760	820
May 8	660	717½	670	—	760	820
May 9	660	720	670	—	760	820
May 10	657½	720	667½	—	760	820
May 11	657½	722½	667½	—	760	820

RICE.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—The market continues active and prices are still advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.42 to 2.45
" Round, good quality	2.57 to 2.60
" Long	2.67 to 2.70
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	3.50 to 2.53
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	2.78 to 2.80
" White	3.33 to 3.36
" Fine Cargo	2.41 to 2.45

COALS.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—Market quiet; small business done. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$18.00 to 19.00 ex godown, sellers
Australian	6.75 to 8.00 ex ship.
Milke Lump	— to 7.75 ex ship, sales
Milke Small	— to — none offering
Moji Lump	6.50 to 7.50 ex ship, sales

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—30 pieces No. 6 at \$78, 55 bales No. 8 at \$82 to \$83, 715 bales No. 10 at \$83 to \$91, 280 bales No. 12 at \$88.50 to \$91, 100 bales No. 16 at \$99.50 to \$101, 705 bales No. 20 at \$89.50 to \$102. *Grey Shirtings*.—300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss Bat \$2.97½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.32½, 400 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Lion at \$1.95, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.77½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.90. *White Shirtings*.—500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.35, 1,235 pieces Flower at 4.80, 570 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.10, 250 pieces Gold Dragon at 5.35, 1,500 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.82½, 1,000 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6, 750 pieces X. 7 at \$3.85, 1,000 pieces O. at \$4.37½, 500 pieces Red Dragon 43 Reed at \$2.20, 250 pieces Stag Horn 48 Reed at \$2.25, 500 pieces No. 1 at \$3.10, 500 pieces 300 at \$3.55, 1,000 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.25, 750 pieces X. 9 at 4.47½, 1,500 pieces D. 70 at \$3.60. *T-Cloths*.—22.45 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.35 to \$2.37½, 900 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.70, 3,000 pieces 8 lbs. V. V. at \$2.95, 2,400 pieces 8 lbs. X. X. at \$3, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Red Moor at \$2.85, 960 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Gold Dragon at \$2.65, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Pheasant at \$2.20, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Pheasant at \$1.95, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon B. at \$2.07½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon B. B. at \$2.27½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag C. C. at \$3.10, 750 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Gold Dragon at \$2.27½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Red Moon at \$2.85, Long EUs—500 pieces 9 lbs. 5 Cocks at \$7.05.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$78.00 to 110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	110.00 to 117.00
" 22 to 24	115.00 to 120.00
" 28 to 32	120.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42	133.00 to 140.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.55 to 1.65
7lbs.	1.95 to 2.12½
8.4 lbs.	2.27½ to 3.05
9 to 10 lbs	3.10 to 3.95
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.20 to 2.40
58 to 60 "	2.55 to 3.15
64 to 66 "	3.10 to 3.60
Fine	3.95 to 6.95
Book-folds	3.20 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.63 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.45 to 1.60
7lbs. (32 ")	1.82½ to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.65 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	2.10 to 2.55
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)	2.85 to 3.15

Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	3.70 to 5.00
FANCY COTTONS	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5 lbs.	1.20 to 3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50 per yard
Damasks	0.11 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	3.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.23
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20 per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to 0.85
WOOLLENS	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.55 to 0.95 per yard
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.50
per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 8.00
Assorted	6.80 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	10.00 to 15.00
Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.60 per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.80 to 9.50
METALS	
per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	3.70 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	3.77½ to —
Swedish Bar	5.40 to —
Small Round Rod	— to —
Hoop	— to —
Old Wire Rope	— to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...	7.40 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	31.00 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	29.25 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	28.75 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	— to —
Tiles	— to —
Tin	— to —
per box.	
Tin-Plates	5.90 to —
per cwt. case	
Steel	4.80 to —
SUNDRIES	
per picul	
Quicksilver	123.00 to —
per box	
Window Glass	3.87½ to —
per 10-gal. case	
Kerosene Oil	2.10 to —

SHANGHAI, 6th May.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—The week under review has been broken into by the Race holidays, which may possibly account, to some extent, for the small business done, though, considering the poor demand that has prevailed for the last month, they cannot have made very much difference. There is, however, certainly more enquiry and better prices are being offered for the comparatively small stock in first hands. But the rapid decline in Exchange more than counteracts any advance made so far and Importers, as a rule, are very firm. The Native holders are more willing to realise apparently and are rapidly unloading, finding ready buyers amongst both the Northern and River Merchants, a very large quantity changing hands during the interval. Heavy losses have to be faced in many instances owing to the drop in sterling rates, but as a rule engagements are being promptly met, only here and there a weak operator failing to come up to time. Clearances are very fair for all markets, which remain in much the same position as depicted in our last. The improvement at Newchwang is more marked, especially in American makes. Owing to the fall in silver Exchange has declined three-eighths of a penny since the last Mail closed, and the uncertainty as to when the bottom will be reached is as great as ever.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—A fair general business has been transacted during the week under review, but nothing of any importance has transpired and rates have ruled about the same, but with an inclination to ease off in some cases.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued firm and have changed hands at 179 and 180 per cent. prem. cash, and at equivalent rates forward, chiefly for July and August. At time of closing the cash rate is a little easier and shares are probably obtainable at 180, whilst August lots could be placed at 183 to 189. Nationals continue to be offered

without finding buyers and Bank of Chinas remain neglected and unchanged. The latest London quotation for Hongkong and Shanghai is £40.

MARINE INSURANCE.—China Traders have been negotiated further at \$77½, North Chinas at Tls. 174 and Tls. 175 ex div., and Yangtszes at \$155 ex div. Canitons have receded to \$185 with sales. Straits have been negotiated in fair quantities at \$19½, closing weak. Unions continue quiet and neglected at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs after further sales at \$347½ in the early part of the week, have advanced to \$350 and \$352½ with sales and close steady to strong. Chinas have been the medium of small investments at \$101 and \$102 and close steady at \$102.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao in the early part of the week ruled exceptionally quiet with but little or no business; some shares changed hands at \$35½ and \$35 for cash and at \$35½ for July; towards the close, however, a small demand set in and several fair lots were negotiated at \$35½ for the 31st inst. and also for cash, the market closing at \$35½. Indo-Chinas have shown strength throughout the week and a steady demand at \$48½ not being satisfied the rate rose to \$49, \$50, and \$51, at which shares changed hands. China Manilas continue to be enquired for at \$70 and \$71, but holders are not inclined to part unless at a substantial advance. Douglasses have changed hands in small lots at \$63 and \$64, closing with buyers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have continued quiet with shares on offer at \$137 and finally sales at \$136½; at the latter rate shares, however, could be placed, but do not appear to be offering. Luzons continue unchanged and have been more or less neglected with only small sales at quotation.

MINING.—Punjoms in the early part of the week ruled quiet and weak, the rate falling to \$6½ with sales and sellers towards the close, however, a firmer feeling set in and shares changed hands in small lots at \$6.30, \$6.40 and \$6.50, market closing steady at latter rate. The Cyanide plant at the mine only worked 14 days, treating 360 tons tailings for a yield of 102 oz. bullion of an assay value of £1 10s 9d. per oz. Charbonnages continue to be enquired for at \$85 to \$90, but no shares seem forthcoming, holders not caring to part in view of the present high rates ruling for coal and of the prospect of the stock being very shortly quoted on the Paris bourse. New Balmorals have improved their position and a fair business has been put through at \$1.90, \$2, and \$2.10 for Preferences, and \$1.70 to \$1.90 for Ordinaries. Olivers, on receipt of a telegram stating that prospects were good and that a crushing of 150 tons had yielded 138 oz. of gold, have been in good demand at advancing rates and business has been put through at \$16½, \$17, \$17½, \$18, \$18½, and \$19 for A's, whilst B's have changed hands in fair lots at \$7 to \$7.50. Jelebus continue weak with small sales at \$2½ and \$2.15. Raubs remained steady during the early part of the week with small sales at \$18.25 and \$18.50; towards the close, however, upon receipt of news of a crushing of 2,400 tons for a yield of 2,550 oz. gold the rate quickly jumped to \$20, \$21, \$22, \$23, and \$23½, and at time of closing shares are enquired for at the last rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled rather quieter with small sales at 244 per cent. prem. for cash. Buyers on time, however, at equivalent rates cannot be satisfied; the market closes with buyers at 244. Kowloon Wharves continue neglected with business reported at quotations. Wanchais unchanged with small sales.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain firm with sales at \$78½ and \$79, closing steady at latter rate. Hotels have found further buyers at \$39, and are still wanted. West Points remain unchanged with buyers at \$19½ and sellers at \$19½. Humphreys have been again negotiated at \$3.75, closing with sellers. Kowloon Lands continue neglected at quotation.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have further boomed to \$37, after sales at \$33, \$34, \$35, and \$36. Watsons have improved to \$13 with sales at that and at \$12½ and \$12½, closing at first rate. Ropes have been negotiated at \$160 and Cotton Mills have again improved all round with sales at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	180, n. p. prem. =
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1 10s	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£5, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$21½, sellers
Founders Shares	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$9, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$½, sales
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$3½
China Sugar	\$100	\$137, sales & sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$20½, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$37, buyers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$31, sales & buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$8.10, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$97½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$39, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$110
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$64½, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$160, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	244 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$185
China Fire	\$20	\$102, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$77½, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$352½, sal. & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 174, sales & b.
Straits	\$20	\$19½, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$230, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$155
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$79, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$8½, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$16
West Point Building	\$40	\$19.75
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$47½, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$90, buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.15, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.90, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$2.10, sales
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$19, buyers
Do. B.	\$2½	\$7½, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$6.50, sales & buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.85, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$23½, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$71, sales & buyers
China Mutual Ord.	£5	£2 10s.
Do. Preference	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$64, sales & buyers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$35½, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$51, sales
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$43½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 7th May.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The Race Holidays have interfered with business. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were placed to Hongkong, early in the week, at 175 per cent. premium. The market has improved since, and shares have been sold to the South at 177 per cent. premium, and locally at 174 and 180½ per cent. for cash, and 176 per cent. for delivery on the 20th current. The London rate is £40. Marine Insurance.—Unions were purchased from Hongkong at \$232. A sale of Cantons is reported at \$188, but shares are now offering in Hongkong at \$185. China Traders shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$79. There is no change reported in Yangtszes and Straits. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares changed hands at Tls. 35 cash and Tls. 36½ for the 31st May, and Tls. 36½ for the 31st July. The Yiksang is now in Nagasaki. Sugar Companies.—Luzon Sugar Refining shares are wanted at \$47. Mining.—Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling shares were sold at Tls. 3, and more are wanted. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 182½ for cash and Tls. 187½ for the 30th June. Shanghai Dock shares were placed, Ordinary at Tls. 68½ and Founders at Tls. 280. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares were sold at Tls. 220. Ewo Cotton shares at Tls. 96 and Tls. 97½, International Cotton shares at Tls. 103 and Tls. 104. Laou-kung-mow Cotton shares at Tls. 106 and Tls. 110 cash and Tls. 107½ for the 31st July, and Soey Chee Cotton shares at Tls. 535. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boats shares were placed at Tls. 190. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 90. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 540 cash and Tls. 552½ for the 31st current,

May 12, 1897.]

Hall & Holtz shares for the 30th June at \$38, and Central Stores shares at \$18.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$350.61.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—\$25.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$23.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$100.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$232.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$30.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 178.

Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$156.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$180.

Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$10.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$352.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$102.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$34.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 84.00.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$61.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—27.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. 17.00.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 25.25.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$186.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$47.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 3.00.

Panjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$4.

Panjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$2.20.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$17.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 210.00.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 182.50.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$431.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 120.00.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$64.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid)—Tls. 90.00.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$77.

Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$15.

Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$3.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 220.00.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 42.50.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 97.50.

International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 102.00.

Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.00.

Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 535.00.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 191.00.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 205.50.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 108.00.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 193.00.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 175.00.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 300.00.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 00.00.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 540.00.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 76.00.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$50.00.

Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$40.50.

A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$18.00.

Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.00.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6.50.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 7th May (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—The term of the Steamer Conference, as regards New York, has now expired, and it would seem that there is no intention of renewing it, at least on the part of three of the principal companies who have hitherto been parties to it. These three companies have instituted a syndicate amongst themselves, and arranged a fortnightly service. As regards the remaining companies, we cannot at present express their intentions, but shippers can safely reckon on a regular supply of tonnage. Coastwise:—Our advices from Newchwang point to an eager demand from Japan for beans now awaiting shipment, which appear to be in a somewhat damaged condition from wet, and enquiries for ready tonnage at 28 cents for Yokohama have so far not resulted in obtaining suitable craft. From Japan coal ports rates to this are slightly easier, and tonnage is obtainable at our quotations. *Via Pacific*:—Telegraphic news having been received that a duty will be imposed on tea arriving in the United States after 1st July, the Pacific rate has been advanced to three cents gold per lb. For New York *via* Cape.—The *Clan Mackenzie* is intended to sail from here about 28th instant, leaving the berth disengaged, unless something unexpected turns up by then. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; New York *via* London,

by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 42s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Rickmers' and Kingsin Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Rickmers' and Kingsin Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Rickmers' and Kingsin Lines, general cargo 33s. 6d. net; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports by all lines. New York, by sail, 16s.; New York *via* Pacific Lines, 3 gold cents per lb. tea; New York *via* Suez, 22s. 6d. per ton general cargo; Boston *via* Suez, 30s. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia *via* Suez, 30s. per ton general cargo. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal. Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal. Newchwang to Kobe 24 cents. Newchwang to southern ports 28 cents. Wuhu to Canton 16 candareens.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 11th May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.48
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.52

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.01

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 48½
Credits, 60 days' sight 49½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 162½
Bank, on demand 163

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 162½
Bank, on demand 163

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 72½
Private, 30 days' sight 73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand ¾ % pm.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 7 % pm.

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand ¾ % pm.

SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate 9.99

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 50.75

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Aden* (str.), *Socotra* (str.), *Coromandel* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Braemar* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Falls of Dee*, *City of Rio*

de Janeiro (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Benmohr* (str.), *Mogul* (str.),

Clan Mackenzie.

For AUSTRALIA.—*Chingtu* (str.), *Omi Maru* (str.).

For HAMBURG.—*Sarpedon* (str.).

For HAVRE.—*Antenor* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

May—
6, Onsang, British str., from Kobe.
6, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
6, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
6, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
6, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., from Portland.
6, Feiyang, German str., from Karatsu.
6, Nanchang, British str., from Chefoo.
6, Rio, German str., from Singapore.
7, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
7, Holstein, German str., from Honcho Bay.
7, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
7, Phra C. C. Klao, British str., from B'kok.
7, Daphne, British gunboat, from a cruise.
7, Taicheong, German str., from Sumatra.
7, Aladdin, Norwegian str., from Moji.
8, Pronto, German str., from Canton.
8, Oscarshel, Norwegian str., from Canton.
8, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
8, Sullberg, German str., from Canton.
8, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
8, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
8, C. H. Kian, British str., from Singapore.

9, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
9, Chunsang, British str., from Tegal (Java).
9, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., from Oloilo.
9, Frejr, Danish str., from Hoihow.
9, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
9, Hangchow, British str., from N'chwang.
9, Kalgan, British str., from Chinkiang.
9, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
9, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
9, Victoria, Swedish str., from Penang.
9, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
10, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
10, Prosper, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
10, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
10, Algerine, British aloop, from Singapore.
10, Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.
10, Falkenburg, German str., from N'chwang.
11, Yangtse, French str., from Shanghai.
11, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from V'couver.
11, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
11, Descartes, French cruiser, from Saigon.
11, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
11, Archer, British g.-bt., from Manila.
11, Ivy, Amr. ship, from Singapore.
11, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
11, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
11, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
11, Nadeshni, Danish str., from Copenhagen.

May—

DEPARTURES.

6, Eclairer, French cr., for Foochow.
6, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
6, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
6, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
6, Glenloch, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
6, Machew, British str., for Yokohama.
6, Mirzapore, British str., for Europe.
6, Derawongse, British str., for Swatow.
6, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Wally, German str., for Yokohama.
7, Benlarig, British str., for Kobe.
7, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
7, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
7, Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
7, Progress, German str., for Chefoo.
7, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
7, Benmohr, British str., for New York.
7, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
7, Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.
7, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
7, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
7, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Shanghai.
7, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
7, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
7, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Trieste.
8, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
8, Oceana, German str., for Shanghai.
8, Daphne, German str., for Shanghai.
8, Cosmopolit, German str., for Tourn.
8, Arratoon Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
9, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
9, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
9, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
9, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
9, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
10, Oscarshel, Norw. str., for Port Walut.
10, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
10, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
10, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
10, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
11, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., for Amoy.
11, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
11, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
11, Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.
11, Kintuck, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
11, Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
11, Peiyang, German str., for Kobe.
11, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
11, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, steamer, from Bremen.—Messrs. Sohnmann, W. Ohlmes, Gray Donald and family, Mrs. Jones and children, Mr. C. C. Malsch, Consul and Mrs. Lange, Messrs. Rodust and Rettig, Miss Frey, Mr. Langen, Miss Ch. Brockmann, Messrs. W. Lampe and Simons, Mr. and Mrs. Dare, Mr. Mitchell and daughters.

Per *Yuensang*, str., from Manila.—Messrs. H. Ashton, W. Simpson, J. G. Lopez, J. Macnab, W. G. Winterburn, and H. J. Andrews.

Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports—Mr. Lim Kook Ghee.
 Per *Cheang Hock Kian*, from Singapore—Mr. F. M. Chapard.
 Per *Kalgan*, str., from Chinkiang—Mr. Hayes.
 Per *Chelydra*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Surg-Major Dempsey, Messrs. Dalby and Vallance, Capt. Duncan.
 Per *Zafiro*, str., from Manila—Mrs. D. M. Baretto, Masters Thomas and Carmer Balbas, Mrs. Isabel Balbas, Miss E. Loyzagu, Messrs. Geo. Macfarlane, Walter Steffan, D. Sidebottom, and Mrs. Che Yen.
 Per *Hanoi*, steamer, from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. Jemsen.
 Per *Kwanglee*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. A. R. Arnott.
 Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, str., from San Francisco—Dr. E. J. Cowen and Mrs. Ruby Burto.

DEPARTED.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Messrs. J. dos S. e Silva and D. W. Cooper. For Penang—Mrs. F. de Souza. For Colombo—Major W. Lindley, Hon. and Mrs. F. A. Cooper. For Bombay—Messrs. P. F. Talati, M. D. Setna, and D. S. Talati, Lieut. A. D. H. Grayson, Messrs. A. Esuffally and B. P. Karanjia. For London—Messrs. J. Mitchell and Ormiston. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mrs. Martens and child. For Colombo—Mr. Owen Jones. For Brindisi—Mr. O. Voight. For London—Misses F. V. Dening and Lovell, Messrs. Greenhalgh and J. S. Sherwood, Mr. and Mrs. F. Abell, Miss Henderson, and Mr. Cope. From Kobe for Colombo—Mr. S. W. Cartwright. For London—Messrs. C. G. Conradi and W. Dickenson. From Nagasaki for London—Mrs. F. Ringer and child. From Shanghai for London—Miss Saville, Mrs. Talbot, Miss Kolkebeck, Mr. I'Anson, Miss Lloyd, Miss Wells, Mr. C. Hall, Rev. and Mrs. A. Foster and 3 children.

Per *Hohenzollern*, str., for Yokohama from Genoa—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Buller, Messrs. Friyama, E. Karcher, and K. Tsuda. From Southampton—Mr. and Mrs. A. Hutton Potts, Mr. and Mrs. F. Townley. From Hongkong—Messrs. H. M. Simons, M. Papier, and Trodlich, Miss Omachie. For Hyogo from Genoa—Mr. H. Simon. For Nagasaki from Singapore—Messrs. Onawa and Ohera, and Miss M. Hocky.

Per *Emeralda*, str., for Manila—Mr. and Mrs. R. Richter and 2 children, Messrs. W. Lampe, W. Coney, and Mrs. Juana Barbat.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, str., for Shanghai from Bremen—Mrs. Kluth and children, Misses M. Baldamus and Oehlmann, Messrs. G. von Printz and T. H. W. Ward. From Southampton—Messrs. H. W. Cook, A. Emanuel, W. Russell, J. Christopher, and Mrs. C. Clifford. From Genoa—Mr. A. Weber, Prince Wolkansky, Messrs. Uchtomsky, Zaballo, and E. Roggi. From Naples—Baron Ziegler von Schaffhausen, Messrs. Syrometorikow, Kuchenbusser. From Port Said—Capt. Andrews, Mr. K. Satonoff. From Singapore—Messrs. P. Caspalm and P. Christie. From Hongkong—Mrs. St. C. Michaelsen, child and governess, Messrs. G. Hopeler, F. A. Southern, A. E. Blanco, R. F. Gray, H. Ewans, and Mrs. C. G. Mitchell and 3 daughters.

Per *Ancona*, str., from Hongkong for Kobe—Dr. and Miss Godfrey. For Yokohama from Hongkong—Messrs. E. Chosseler, F. H. Pellew, Mrs. Ross, Miss Bailey and 3 children, and Mr. Kircher. From London—Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick, and Mr. G. Mudge. From Brindisi—Mr. Rives, Col. and Mrs. Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood.

Per *Thales*, str., for Amoy—Mr. Collins.
 Per *Loongmoon*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. Moller.

SHIPPING IN PORT.

HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.

Airlie, British steamer, 2,433, Ellis, May 3, Gibb, Livingston & Co
 Aladdin, Norw. str., 1,988, Chjott, May 7, Shewan, Tomes & Co
 Braemar, British str., 2,316, Porter, May 3, Dodwell, Carlill & Co

Chelydra, British steamer, 1,574, Cass, May 9, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 Chunsang, British str., 1,418, Buller, May 9, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., 3,159, Ward, May 10, P. M. S. S. Co
 Cluden, British str., 2,035, Sanderson, May 4, Naval Yard
 Dante, German steamer, 1,302, Ropke, May 5, Chinese
 Doyo Maru, Jap. str., 1,232, Sakamoto, May 9, Nippon Yusen Kaisha
 Empress of Japan, British str., 5,904, Pybus, May 11, C. P. R. Co
 Falkenburg, German str., 975, Freedon, May 10, Melchers & Co
 Fatahan, British str., 1,425, R. L. Blight, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Canton
 Frejr, Danish steamer, 395, Sunder, May 9, A. R. Marty
 Gisela, Austrian str., 2,643, Bretich, May 10, Sander & Co
 Haimun, British str., 636, Bathurst, May 11, Douglas Lapraik & Co
 Hangchow, British str., 999, Bennett, May 9, Butterfield & Swire
 Hankow, British str., 2,235, Dick, Butterfield & Swire, for Canton
 Hanoi, French steamer, 739, Barencon, May 10, A. R. Marty
 Heungshan, British str., 1,054, W. E. Clarke, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Macao
 Holstein, German steamer, 985, Bruhn, May 7, Jebson & Co
 Honam, British str., 1,344, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Canton
 Kalgan, British str., 1,158, Phillips, May 9, Butterfield & Swire
 Kweilin, British str., 1,088, Harris, May 11, Butterfield & Swire
 Lyeemoon, Ger. str., 1,238, Heuermann, May 9, Siemssen & Co
 Mathilde, German steamer, 688, Berg, May 5, Jebson & Co
 Monmouthshire, Brit. str., 1,871, Evans, May 6, Shewan, Tomes & Co
 Nadesni, Danish str., 258, Garde, May 11, Dodwell, Carlill & Co
 Nanchang, British str., 1,060, Finlayson, May 6, Butterfield & Swire
 Natal, French steamer, 2,455, Chevalier, May 11, Messageries Maritimes
 Onisang, British str., 1,782, Kynoch, May 6, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 Phra Chula Chom Klao, Brit. str., 1,012, Pigot, May 7, Yuen Fat Hong
 Phra Nang, British str., 1,021, Watton, May 8, Yuen Fat Hong
 Powan, British str., 1,842, S. W. Goggin, H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., for Canton
 Prosper, Norw. str., 789, Torstensen, May 10, Harling, Buschmann & Menzell
 Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., 598, Sanders, May 11, Arnhold, Karberg & Co
 Shantung, British str., 1,555, Frampton, April 30, Butterfield & Swire
 Strathallan, Brit. str., 1,488, Macoubrey, Apr. 22, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 Taicheong, German str., 828, Duhme, May 7, Meyer & Co
 Victoria, Swedish str., 989, Hellberg, May 9, Chinese
 Yangtse, French steamer, 3,095, Lidin, May 11, Messageries Maritimes
 Zafiro, British steamer, 675, Cobban, May 9, Shewan, Tomes & Co

SAILING VESSELS.

Amy Turner, Amr. bk., 901, Warland, Apr. 30, Standard Oil Co
 Atlantic, German bk., 633, Kelkenberg, Mar. 31, Chinese
 Brunel, British bark, 1,555, Frampton, April 9, Standard Oil Co
 Falls of Dee, British 4-m. ship, 1,845, Look, Feb. 16, Standard Oil Co
 Ivy, American ship, 1,181, Wall, May 11, Chinese
 Landser, Amr. ship, 1,348, Stahl, April 12, Dodwell, Carlill & Co
 Mary L. Cushing, Amr. ship, 1,575, Pendleton, April 12, Arnhold, Karberg & Co
 Port Stanley, British 4-m. bk., 2,187, Williams, April 6, Standard Oil Co
 Torrisdale, Brit. 4-m. bk., 2,184, Buchanan, Feb. 6, Standard Oil Co
 West York, British bark, 638, Davis, Oct. 18, Order

SHANGHAI.

In Port on 6th May, 1897.

Ancona, British 4-m. ship, 2,570, Robins, April 19, Standard Oil Co
 Asosan Maru, Jap. str., 1,211, Fusiki, May 2, M. B. Kaisha
 Chowchowfoo, Ger. str., 795, Buhrmann, May 3, Russo-Chinese Bank
 Clan Mackenzie, Brit. str., 1,509, Iddes, Feb. 15, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 Coromandel, British str., 2,783, Seymour, April 20, P. & O. S. N. Co
 Fuping, Chinese str., 1,058, Clemens, May 4, C. E. & M. Co
 Hunan, British str., 1,158, Frazier, May 4, Butterfield & Swire
 Kingsing, British str., 1,255, Young, May 4, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 Kobe Maru, Japanese str., 1,645, Swain, May 4, Nippon Yusen Kaisha
 Kwanglee, Chinese str., 1,505, Lincoln, May 4, C. M. S. N. Co
 Leeyuen, Chinese steamer, 619, Johns, May 1, C. M. S. N. Co
 Lianshing, British str., 1,046, Purkis, May 4, Jardine, Matheson & Co
 Musselrag, British bark, 1,871, Vaughan, April 1, Standard Oil Co
 Otaru Maru, Jap. str., 1,507, Ivor, Mar. 21, Nippon Yusen Kaisha
 Pactolus, Amr. ship, 1,561, Watts, April 12, Standard Oil Co
 Salvator, Amr. sch., 444, Jansen, April 17, H. Snethlage
 Store Nordiske, Dan. str., 596, Suenson, April 22, G. N. Telegraph Co
 Teenka, British steamer, 3,019, Long, May 2, China Mutual S. N. Co
 Thyra, British str., 2,240, Duning, April 29, E. D. Sassoon & Co
 Ulysses, British steamer, 2,299, Brown, May 1, Butterfield & Swire
 Undaunted, Amr. ship, 1,647, Olsen, April 14, S. C. Farnham & Co
 Valkyrien, British bark, 498, Anderson, Dec. 15, Nils Moller and Sons
 Wooning, Chinese steamer, 746, Rea, July 26, Bennert & Co
 Yangtse, French str., 2,882, Lidin, April 23, Messageries Maritimes
 Yungching, Chinese str., 760, Symons, May 4, C. M. S. N. Co

NAGASAKI.

In Port on 4th May, 1897.

A. J. Fuller, Amr. ship, 1,800, Matthews, Mar. 29, Standard Oil Co
 Eureka, Amr. ship, 1,996, Darrah, Mar. 21, Standard Oil Co
 J. B. Thomas, Amr. bk., 1,807, Lermond, April 30, Standard Oil Co
 Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., 5,800, McKenzie, April 27, Nippon Yusen Kaisha
 Nagato Maru, Jap. str., 1,149, Miyaki, Feb. 22, Nippon Yusen Kaisha
 Pronto, Norwegian str., 632, Meyer, May 3, Holme, Ringer & Co
 Quarta, German str., 1,146, Johannsen, Apr. 24, Holme, Ringer & Co
 Sakata Maru, Jap. str., 1,369, Weibuch, May 3, Nippon Yusen Kaisha
 Tateyama Maru, Jap. str., 1,340, Shirakata, April 11, Japanese
 Yechigo Maru, Jap. str., 788, Tsuda, May 2, Nippon Yusen Kaisha

BANGKOK.

In Port on 29th April, 1897.

Antors, German bark, from Singapore
 Borneo, British str., from Singapore
 Bukit Tinga, Siamese str., from Chantaboon
 Chowfa, British str., from Hoihow
 Dean, British str., from Singapore
 Donai, French str., from Saigon
 Glenholm, British str., from London
 Gorgon, British str., from Singapore
 Hydra, British str., from Singapore
 Mosquito, British str., from Koh-i-chang
 Oscarshol, Norwegian str., from Singapore
 Phra Nang, British str., from Swatow
 Sigyen, Swedish bark, from Port Natal
 Tellus, Norwegian str., from —
 Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Singapore
 Vesoner, Norw. bark, from Cardiff
 Winja, Swedish bark, from Bombay
 Wongkoi, British str., from Hongkong

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